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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian 'Plan' To Revive Iraq's Role Detailed

JN1202073793 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 13 Feb 93 p 10

[By the political editor]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's deportation decision has created a formidable crisis in the region and raised a big question on how many Arab and international parties deal with Islamic fundamentalism. When Rabin made this decision—in light of internal Israeli calculations—he was not aware of the indirect repercussions this decision would have on other political issues in the Middle East other than the peace process and the negotiations.

The Israeli decision on deportations, the escalating war between fundamentalists on the one hand and the Egyptian and Algerian Governments on the other, as well as the inauguration of a new U.S. Administration, made many parties think of reviving Iraq's regional role. Egypt was the first to encourage such an approach because of Iran's support for Egyptian fundamentalists and its strong support for fundamentalist forces opposed to the Middle East peace process.

The Egyptians believe that there is a strong link between Iran's support for Islamic fundamentalism aimed at strengthening its regional influence, and using fundamentalist forces to undermine the Middle East peace process. The Egyptians also became convinced that undermining the peace process has become the focal point of Iran's growing role in the region, since this role has grown to cover Sudan, Algeria, and Egypt. In addition, Iran has a very distinguished relationship with Syria, and through this relationship, Iran can impact on the course of events in Lebanon. After all, Lebanon is considered one of the important arenas in which Iran can erect obstacles to the peace process by way of military operations carried out by the pro-Iranian Hizballah.

SHIHAN has information indicating that during the visit to Washington by President Mubarak's adviser Usamah al-Baz, he conveyed Cairo's views on the general situation in the Middle East to the U.S. Administration. Al-Baz explained to officials from the U.S. National Security Council that the peace process cannot be maintained without the protection of the core countries participating in the peace process. He added that the peace process also cannot be maintained without preventing the establishment of fundamentalist regimes opposed to peace in the Middle East. Such regimes would undermine national security by creating regional confrontations and disputes. Al-Baz also stressed that the peace process would be promoted by ending the phenomenon of fundamentalism in the Middle East. Al-Baz proposed to U.S. officials that one of the most important ways of striking at fundamentalism coming from Iran would be to revitalize Iraq's regional role, which would then become one of the most important pillars of peace. He also said that Iraq would abandon what the West calls political extremism and that the Iraqi leadership appears to be ready to act within realistic limits.

Our information indicates that U.S. officials agreed to such an approach, and were convinced that the method followed by President Bush's administration in confronting fundamentalism, which depended on preventing the formation of a unified leadership for religious fundamentalism, is not enough given Iran's success in overcoming this method. Iran has started to play a direct role in commanding and guiding fundamentalist movements in each individual country. Iran has also continued to escalate confrontations in Algeria and Egypt, and has maintained its relations with Sudan, seeing it as "a base" for operations.

The Americans accepted the principle of forming a "regional lobby" to counter the Iranian role, with Iraq and Egypt serving as its basic pillars. They gave Cairo the green light to go ahead in this direction, and stressed that they will not pursue the same method pursued by the Bush administration, which was a hard-line approach in dealing with Iraq and forcing it to be "an extremist state." Still, the Americans did set the condition that the process of reviving Iraq's regional role should not be carried out through them or through direct dialogue due to several internal and external considerations, including the confidence crisis between the two sides caused by the Gulf crisis.

It was agreed that Egypt would embark on the mission of fortifying the anti-Iran lobby. The question raised in Washington was: "Who is able to knock on Iraq's door and convince it of this role?" The answer was that there are only two sides that can play such a role; namely Jordan and the PLO, given their distinguished relations with Baghdad and Iraq's confidence in both parties. But due to the Egyptian sensitivity toward Jordan and because relations with Jordan are still cool, the Egyptians preferred the PLO, and the Americans agreed to this.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak briefed Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat on all the details, and 'Arafat agreed to be the one to knock on Iraq's door. Before arriving in Amman on his latest visit, while on his way for Baghdad, 'Arafat stopped over at Cairo's airport where he received a message from President Mubarak to be relayed to President Saddam Husayn. At Cairo airport, the mission was defined and the visit's objectives and the terms for its success were decided. In return for ending the political and economic blockade after implementing the Security Council resolutions, Iraq was asked to openly declare its support for the peace process.

In Baghdad, 'Arafat conveyed to President Saddam Husayn the Egyptian message and the details of the Egyptian-U.S. concept on the future political situation in the Middle East. Sources close to the Palestinian leadership said that President Saddam was enthusiastic about playing such a role and expressed satisfaction with the nature of the Egyptian approach.

It was agreed then that 'Arafat would clearly declare that President Saddam supports the peace process. Thus, 'Arafat ended his mission in Baghdad successfully, without hearing—as many had expected—Iraqi criticism for the Palestinian apology that Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] made to Saudi Arabia. In fact, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ignored this question altogether. This is because Iraq's primary concern is with ending the economic blockade and breaking its Arab and, consequently, international isolation.

Political sources indicate that there are several Arab parties that show reservations over this possibility, and actively seek to obstruct it. Leading such a trend is Kuwait, followed by Saudi Arabia and Syria. These sources indicate that Syria, Kuwait, and Iran share almost identical views on the need to abort this Egyptian vision of reviving Iraq's regional role. Sources say that the mission of the Kuwaiti foreign minister was to abort the Egyptian effort. They add that the Kuwaitis' revival of the Damascus Declaration, which they "killed" nearly a year ago after concluding their first 10-year military agreement with the United States to defend the emirate, was the decoy that the Kuwaitis offered the Syrians of making them more linked to their Gulf interests. However, the Egyptians' attraction to the Kuwaiti decoy was not great. This is because the Egyptian calculations go beyond financial support or a limited regional role. Their idea of besieging Iran aims, first of all, at averting a direct threat to them, and, secondly, safeguarding the peace process. Besides, the Egyptians want to secure a much larger regional role than the Damascus Declaration would provide if implemented.

As for the Syrian calculations, they are based on the assumption that reviving Iraq's role would be at the direct expense of Damascus. In addition, accepting that the Iranian role be curbed by an allied state—Egypt—will make Syria fall in the impasse of not being able to establish a balance between two contradictory relationships. Add to this the fact that curbing Iran's role would cost Syria one of its cards in the game of "political intimidation." After all, the Iranian card in Syria's hand has always been a card of pressure on the Gulf Arabs, the Egyptians, and the Western world. Over past years, Syria presented itself as the only key to Tehran. This helped it win a great deal, both politically and economically.

Informed diplomatic sources have told SHIHAN that Secretary Christopher's tour, which was officially declared after the success of 'Arafat's visit to Baghdad, will deal, in addition to the peace process, with the situation in Iraq. This tour will decide the fate of the Egyptian plan. Sources say that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will not oppose the plan because it basically serves strategic U.S. calculations that are hard for Washington to abandon given the calculations of "revenge" governing policy in Riyadh, Kuwait, and Damascus.

Arab Maghreb Union Meeting Begins in Tunis

LD1102150093 Algiers APS in English 1025 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tunis, 11/02/93 (APS)—Works of the 24th session of the follow-up committee of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) started on Wednesday [10 February] here under the chairmanship of the Tunisian State Secretary to Maghreban Affairs, Sa'id Ben Mustapha in the presence of delegations of the Maghreban countries.

The Algerian delegation to these works which will last two days is led by Abdalaziz Khellaf, minister delegate to cooperation and Maghreban affairs.

Participants to this session will discuss an agenda including notably the examination of the report on the state of development of the construction of the union and the enforcement of resolutions of the UMA Council of Presidency, besides the resolution of the method of a joint Maghreban action and the programme of the future meetings.

The UMA relations with other regional gatherings, organic questions relating to this Maghreban institution constitute the other points on the agenda of the present meeting.

The opening session was marked by interventions of Tunisian, Mauritanian, Algerian and Moroccan delegations which hailed the efforts made till now and noted the necessity to work for the implementation of the already concluded accords.

Algeria's representative, Khellaf indicated that the session intervenes following the session of the Union Council of Presidency held in Nouakchott which, he said, constitutes an important step in for the common action and the edification of the Arab Maghreb.

While hailing achievements acquired since the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, Abdalaziz Khellaf put the stress on the necessity to adapt the Maghreban programmes to the new demands of the time and the general orientations of the Maghreb.

The Algerian minister paid homage to the commemoration of Saqiat Sidi Yusuf events, celebrated by Algerians and Tunisians three days ago.

Arab League Chief on Deportees, Other Issues

NC1202070193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said he is maintaining contacts with the UN secretary general, the Security Council chairman, and the foreign ministers of the five major states in an effort to urge them to compel Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the Palestinian deportees' return home.

In an interview with AL-WAFD today, 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that if the deportee problem continues and a partial solution is imposed, the Middle East peace process would be completely damaged and the world's confidence in the Security Council, which applies double standards, would be undermined.

He said he will call on the Arab League Ministerial Council to resume its emergency session on the deportees if their suffering continues in Marj al-Zuhur.

Commenting on the Lebanese Government's refusal to allow him to visit the deportees, 'Abd-al-Majid said the Lebanese Government does not want to go back on its stand that Israel is fully responsible for the deportees. He described this stand as courageous and responsible, adding that it aims to destroy Israel's scheme to export the issue to Lebanon. He explained that his desire to visit the deportees was only meant to express the League's support for their humanitarian cause.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he believes the seven-way Arab committee in charge of following up Libya's crisis with the West will discuss new Libyan ideas to break the stalemate in the crisis at its upcoming meeting in Tunis.

The Arab League secretary general said he is willing to mediate between Kuwait and Iraq, or any two Arab states, if either party requests his intervention. This offer also applies to the dispute between Egypt and Sudan, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called on Iraq to end the sufferings of the Kuwaiti POW's it is holding as a sign of good will. He appealed to Iraqi officials to stop saying Kuwait is part of Iraq; Kuwait is an independent and sovereign state and a member of the Arab League and the United Nations.

The secretary general blamed the Somalis for destroying their country because they refused to listen to reason and indulged in what seems like mass suicide. He said the League urged Arab states to send food and humanitarian aid to Somalia and that the League has dispatched a voluntary Egyptian medical team to save Somali lives. He added that the League Secretariat has prepared a comprehensive draft on the best way to tackle the crisis. The draft will be discussed by the expected preparatory meeting of the national accord conference.

'Abd-al-Majid said he believes pan-Arab security does not conflict in any way with the national security of individual states, explaining that both complement each other on the basis of common destiny and affiliation.

Touching on the possibility of holding an urgent Arab summit to revive Arab solidarity, he said no member state has filed an official request for an Arab summit with the Secretariat. I would rather provide a favorable atmosphere to secure the participation of all Arab leaders in such a summit as a basic prerequisite for its success.

Further Remarks on Deportees

PM1102123893 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 Feb 93 pp 17-19

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Michel Bu-Najm in Paris at the "end of last month"]

[Excerpts] [Bu-Najm] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has submitted a report to the Security Council recommending that "all necessary measures be taken to ensure Israeli compliance" with Resolution 799 calling for the repatriation of the Palestinian deportees. How do you view that, and does it meet the Arab League's wishes?

['Abd-al-Majid] First, I would like to welcome the UN secretary general's report. I imagine that he reached that conclusion after the failure of the mission of his two envoys to Israel. [passage omitted]

If there are ways in which the council could implement its resolutions without recourse to chapter 7, we would welcome that but if Israel continues to refuse, dither, and procrastinate, then we would have no alternative but to request application of the provisions of chapter 7 of the charter. That way, the Security Council would be doing its duty and shouldering its responsibilities without double standards. We Arabs, from the ocean to the Gulf, are sensitive about that and believe that the Security Council must not have double standards and that Israel must implement and comply with the Security Council resolutions, in the same way the council requests other states to implement its resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Bu-Najm] But how long does one have to wait for Israel to implement Resolution 799? One month, two months, or more?

['Abd-al-Majid] The matter requires some time. By that we mean days, not weeks or months. On the basis of my experience at the United Nations where I spent 11 years and dealt with many issues before the Security Council and the General Assembly, also in difficult circumstances, I expect consultations to be held regarding the secretary general's report and I expect the Security Council to meet soon to discuss the report and make the necessary decisions. We believe that this should take place within the next few days.

[Bu-Najm] The Security Council cannot pass a resolution if a permanent member exercises its veto right. The United States has said that it "sees no point in a Security Council meeting" to discuss the issue under chapter 7 of the charter. How is that U.S. position to be tackled?

['Abd-al-Majid] If one is to understand from the U.S. official spokesman's statement that there is no need to pass a new resolution based on chapter 7 of the UN charter and that Israel will comply with and implement Resolution 799, then we welcome it. Of course, we know that the United States does not wish to impose sanctions on Israel, but what alternative does it suggest?

Washington's position is political but I ask: Is it acceptable to the United States that the deportees should remain at Israel's mercy forever in that remote part of Lebanon? We Arabs need to hear the U.S. view. So far, I do not have sufficient information and data to judge. [passage omitted]

[Bu-Najm] Russia's UN representative Vorontsov has stated that his country would support a resolution imposing sactions against Israel if such a [draft] resolution was submitted to the Security Council. Is that, in your view, an indication of a change in Russia's foreign policy?

['Abd-al-Majid] If true, Vorontsov's statement is a positive development of the Russian position. We welcome it and we hope that Russia will pursue its policy and shoulder its

responsibilities in line with the provisions of the UN charter and the UN Security Council resolutions.

[Bu-Najm] From Washington's position on the deportation issue, can one detect any indication of Clinton's policy on the Middle East?

['Abd-al-Majid] It is difficult for me today, shortly after President Clinton's inauguration, to judge his foreign policy on the Middle East but I believe that the U.S. Administration has people fully capable of making a sound assessment of U.S. interests. I can say that, to a large extent, there is no conflict between fulfillment of U.S. interests and fulfillment of many Arab interests, although views may differ. [passage omitted]

[Bu-Najm] Is there any new development regarding the Arab summit conference question?

['Abd-al-Majid] You know that some Arab summit conferences were held in a suitable atmosphere while other summits were held in difficult circumstances. We believe that if held, an Arab summit conference could achieve a lot. King Hassan II has, without doubt, made commendable efforts in calling for such a summit. My personal view is that good preparations are required if the summit is to be fruitful. [passage omitted]

[Bu-Najm] Do you believe that Iraq has really "closed the Kuwait chapter?" In a television interview, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that "the Kuwait chapter has been closed and its better not to go into details." What does that mean to the Arabs?

['Abd-al-Majid] Your questions denote frankness not confrontation. That is how I understand them.

The statement attributed by the news agencies to Tariq 'Aziz to the effect that the "Kuwait chapter has been closed" deserves a pause. Of course, what interests me is what is meant by that, but Tariq 'Aziz could not have made a statement like that without President Saddam Husayn's approval. That is obvious. The second point is that the statement came late. The time has come for Iraq to declare that the question of "Kuwait being the 19th governorate of Iraq" is finished and closed forever. We also must know if the Iraqi Government intends comply with and implement all the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq, including those related to any territorial claims on Kuwait, acceptance of the border demarcation with it, payment of compensation due to Kuwait, and return of the Kuwaiti POW's. An Iraqi Government commitment to all that would indicate that it has changed the position that we had known and experienced since the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

[Bu-Najm] A final question in that context. Is Arab reconciliation possible with Saddam Husayn still in power?

['Abd-al-Majid] That is very much a matter for the Iraqi people to decide. The Arab League secretary general cannot broach it.

[Bu-Najm] Iran is causing many fears in the Arab world because of its accelerating armament, seizure of Abu Musa island, and activities in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and Sudan. How do you view Iran and how should it be dealt with?

['Abd-al-Majid] That is an important question. We, as Arab states, want friendship with Iran because it is an important Islamic and neighboring state. I am interested in good relations between the Arab states and Iran. That does not stem from weakness or fear of Iranian hegemony. We are talking, not about challenge and confrontation but about good neighborliness, mutual interests, fraternity, and spiritual and religious links. That is the message I really wish to send to the Iranian brothers and I believe that it expresses the views of many people in the Arab world. But how could we expect the spirit we advocate to prevail if Iran enters into a confrontation with the Arab world and tries to dictate hegemony, control, occupation of of islands in the Gulf, and interference in the internal affairs of the Arab states? I say that it is not a question of an arms race because an arms race in any part of the world cannot achieve its objective. Armament in the Gulf region is defensive. I ask: Where is the threat to Iran from its neighbors? I do not see any such threat. So, why this Iranian armament? Why this escalation of arms purchases of submarines and the other things we read and hear about? Let me say here that Iran should deal with its neighbors in particular and the Arab states in general in a way that would make us feel that ultimately Iranian, Arab, and Islamic interests were being served.

[Bu-Najm] What, in your view, is the way to break the deadlock in Libya's crisis with the three Western states (the United States, Britain, and France)? What is the latest on that issue and is the Arab League playing any part?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab League is giving its attention to Libya's crisis with the three Western states, along with other Arab issues. Libya has demonstrated flexibility and willingness to reach a satisfactory solution in the interest of all parties. There can be no doubt that Libya is an independent and sovereign state and we do not want its sovereignty or rights undermined. We also favor dialogue among all the parties to the crisis. The Arab League did play a part at one stage in terms of holding contacts with a number of Arab leaders and officials to avoid escalation in that sensitive part of the world. I still call for a dialogue to reach an acceptable settlement, as Libya has shown willingness and flexibility. [passage omitted]

[Bu-Najm] In your view, have the Arabs done their duty towards Somalia?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, and I have expressed my views on this issue. I refer you to my previous statements about it.

[Bu-Najm] The United States favors an end to the Arab boycott of Israel. What is your view?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab boycott falls within the jurisdiction of the Arab League council. If the United States asks one Arab state or more to end the boycott, then such request should be referred to the Arab League council for a decision.

[Bu-Najm] The Arab-Israeli negotiations are now suspended. At times it was said that they were on the verge of achieving results and other times that they were deadlocked.

['Abd-al-Majid] The peace process must continue and we must all strive for its success and for a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees security and stability in the region, but the Israeli practices, particularly on the question of the deportees and Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territory, cast a heavy shadow on the peace process. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Head Welcomes U.S. Initiative on Bosnia

LD1102232693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Jeddah, 11 Feb (SPA)—Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Dr. Hamid Algabid welcomed the U.S. peace plan for Bosnia-Hercegovina which was put forward by the U.S. secretary of state on Wednesday [10 February] evening.

Dr Algabid has officially received the text of the U.S. plan which he believed, will more positively strengthen the current efforts aimed at tackling the serious human situation which resulted from Serbian aggression in the Bosnia-Hercegovina. The plan provides more chance for a negotiated settlement in this country.

In statements he made on this occasion the ICO secretary general expressed his satisfaction that the U.S. plan endorsed the resolutions of the London conference and particularly its rejection of the acquisition of other people's territories by force and the need to guarantee the salvation of Bosnia-Hercegovina and ensure its existence as a state.

Algabid welcomed the U.S. proposal which calls for increasing the sanctions against the aggressor and taking firm measures to ensure complete respect for the no-fly zone area.

Algabid renewed the commitment of the ICO member-states to the search for a just and lasting solution to this conflict under the auspices of respect for international legitimacy.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Blames U.S. for Violence in Territories

LD1102190993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Feb 93

["Full text" of news conference held by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 11 February; place not given; read by announcer—recorded]

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, held an urgent news conference at 1315 this afternoon in the aftermath of the dramatic developments inside occupied Palestine, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank. Here now follows the full text of the news conference.

Brother Abu-'Ammar held the U.S. Administration responsible for the current killing, oppression, and terrorism that is practiced by the forces of the government of the terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin in the Gaza Strip, especially in Khan Yunis.

During his news conference, Brother Abu-'Ammar stated that the forces of occupation are presently using antitank missiles, firing artillery guns, and throwing poisonous bombs, using helicopters and infantry soldiers. They are using armored vehicles against defenseless civilians, he added.

Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed the use of these destructive weapons was the outcome of the encouragement received by Rabin from the new U.S. Administration following the conclusion of the unjust deal regarding the Palestinian deportees, which Rabin considers a great victory for his government.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar called on the new U.S. Administration to rescind this deal, especially as its direct results are reflected through the use of further Israeli oppression, pillaging, and terrorism against our people. He quoted British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd as saying the Israeli Army is bad, even worse now compared to what it used to be.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar announced that he has asked Brother Ambassador Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian representative to the Arab League, to call for an urgent meeting of the League's ministerial council to discuss the serious escalation in the terrorism and killing by Israel. Brother Abu-'Ammar said he will send urgent letters today regarding this to all the members of the UN Security Council, the EC countries, Japan, nonaligned countries, Islamic Conference Organization countries, African countries, and Arab countries asking them to uphold their humanitarian responsibility by putting pressure on Rabin's government to stop the increasing terrorism against unarmed civilians among our people.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar stressed that what is taking place in the occupied territories, particularly in Khan Yunis, is a war in the full sense of the word, recalling the need for the implementation of UN Resolution 681 on the provision of UN protection for our people and the dispatching of UN observers to the occupied territories. Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar asked whether there are two standards for international legitimacy: one against our Palestinian people and Arab countries and another for the benefit of Israel.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar expressed regret at the delay in the convening of the UN Security Council after visits by two UN envoys to the occupied territories and Israel's refusal to abide by Security Council Resolution 799. He said it is regrettable that the new U.S. Administration has so far prevented the convening of the Security

Council to look into the report by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed that the number of Palestinians killed during that period [not further identified] exceeded the number of those killed last year during Shamir's era. He said 23 martyrs, including 13 children, and about 900 wounded have fallen victim in recent months.

Brother Abu-'Ammar indicated that killing, pillaging, and destruction are continuing in Khan Yunis, and that the number of houses targeted by antitank missiles exceeds 60, including 30 that were totally demolished. Abu-'Ammar stressed that there are top official instructions for the Zionist soldiers to open fire on Palestinians, mainly to aim for their upper body instead of the lower part for immediate killing. This explains an increase in the number of dead by 120 percent.

Brother Abu-'Ammar replied to a question by saying that the aim of the new U.S. Administration is to solve Rabin's problems and not reactivate the peace process; its aim is to discourage the UN Security Council from implementing sanctions against Israel.

Responding to another question on the nature of the commitment undertaken by the Americans and the Israelis vis-a-vis the agreement on the deportees, Brother Abu-'Ammar replied: How can this accord be binding without the agreement of or advance knowledge from the party concerned? How can it be binding since the UN Security Council resolution states frankly that all the deportees should return immediately and not return in a partial way.

Answering a third question on U.S.-Palestinian relations, Brother President Abu-'Ammar expressed his regret that the U.S. Government has broken its old and new promises of renewing the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

To conclude his news conference, President Abu-'Ammar stated that the goal of the Israeli prime minister is no longer to undermine the peace process. Like his predecessors, he tries to normalize Arab-Israeli relations while avoiding guaranteeing the firm and national rights of the Palestinian people, which is the focal point of the conflict in the Middle East. Brother Abu-'Ammar stated that Rabin's government has not met with the appropriate punishment for defying international will and for not complying with Resolution 799. Why does Rabin then escalate his war against our people? What is taking place now is a result of the U.S. stance.

'Arafat: Israeli Troops Search Gaza; U.S. Blamed

NC1102193293 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tunis, Feb 11 (AFP) - Heavily-armed Israeli troops backed by helicopters have launched a house-to-house search through the occupied Gaza Strip, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said Thursday [11 February].

He said Israeli troops armed with automatic weapons, mortars and explosives and backed by helicopters had since Wednesday night been combing through the territory, a stronghold of Muslim fundamentalism and anti-Israeli resistance.

'Arafat described the alleged operation as "officially organised terrorism" and a "war crime," and said the United States was fully to blame for supporting Israeli policies.

He charged that the United States had worsened the situation by working out a compromise for Israel to take back 101 of some 400 Palestinian deportees stranded in Lebanon and to reduce the term of exile of the others.

In exchange Washington would block sanctions against Israel after it refused to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799 ordering the return of all the men. Israel expelled 415 Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist suspects to Lebanon on December 17. Many of them are from the Gaza Strip.

"The United States has to take the blame for all that is going on now," 'Arafat told a news conference at the Palestine Liberation Organisation Headquarters in Tunis.

The PLO chairman said he would send "urgent messages" on the Israeli operation to the Security Council, the European Community, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity.

"The patience of our people has limits," he warned.

He accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of "escalating repression" against the Palestinians in a bid to "destroy the peace process by normalising relations with the Arabs while bypassing the rights of the Palestinians."

There was no immediate word from Israel on the operation in Gaza.

Negotiator on Meeting With U.S. Senators

JN1102182993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1550 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Carried within the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Within the context of peace efforts and the peace process, a meeting was held between some Palestinian figures and three U.S. senators at the U.S. Consulate in West Jerusalem this evening. The three U.S. senators are currently visiting Israel.

Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi spoke to Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating team.

[Begin recording] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib: Good evening.

[Al-Khatib] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Abu-al-'Abd [Ghassan al-Khatib]: This evening, you met at the U.S. Consulate with some U.S. senators who are currently visiting the country. What issues were discussed at this meeting?

[Al-Khatib] As a matter of fact, this was a routine meeting, the kind that are usually held with foreign visitors, particularly Americans. It was held at the consulate. The issues

discussed at the meeting are bound to be topical issues, particularly Israel's deportations and the issue of resuming political negotiations.

[Mu'addi] What was the position of the U.S. senators with regard to the resumption of peace negotiations?

[Al-Khatib] As a matter of fact, the senators underscored the need to resume the negotiations as soon as possible. At the same time, they showed an understanding for the need to resolve the deportations issue in accordance with Resolution 799, given that such a development would prepare the ground for the resumption of the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Did the senators urge the Palestinian side to resume the bilateral negotiations, and not to boycott them?

[Al-Khatib] Actually, the U.S. senators urged the Palestinian side to return to the negotiations. However, they have not attempted to convince us that this return to the negotiations must take place even though the deportations issue has remained unresolved. At any rate, their major concern was to know about the Palestinian position rather than to influence it.

[Mu'addi] Abu-al-'Abd: News reports have been published to the effect that the U.S. Administration might extend invitations for the resumption of the next round of talks on 18 April. Do you expect the Palestinian side to take part in this round of talks?

[Al-Khatib] As a matter of fact, we have heard this news report from the Israeli media. We sought official explanations from the U.S. side about this. It transpired that this news report is untrue. This is because the U.S. side does not intend to extend invitations for the resumption of talks on this specific date. That is, the United States has not thus far decided to extend invitations for the resumption of talks on this date. Furthermore, the United States and the Arab states participating in the talks agree that no invitations should be extended before the deportations issue is resolved.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating team: Thank you very much.

[Al-Khatib] You are welcome. [end recording]

U.S. Urged To Intervene Directly in Peace Talks

TA1102171393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Feb 93 p 9

[Editorial: "What Is Expected of the U.S. Administration"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department is currently engaged in an intensive diplomatic effort with the parties involved in the peace talks in preparation for the new U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region next week and in a bid to set the date of the upcoming round of bilateral talks, which Washington is seeking to hold in April.

The U.S. State Department team responsible for the negotiating process met recently in Washington with Palestinian envoys. This was followed by the same team's meeting with Israeli envoys. The Israeli foreign minister left yesterday to hold talks in Washington. The Arab capitals, too, are witnessing coordinating moves at the highest levels. The Palestinian president has been in Amman, Baghdad, and Cairo. The Egyptian president was in Damascus, and the Lebanese prime minister was in Damascus and is going to Cairo. The Saudi crown prince has been in Damascus and Cairo. All these moves in preparation for and in coordination with the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit to the region.

The new U.S. Administration, through President Clinton, has expressed its commitment to the negotiating process leading to an acceptable political settlement of the conflict in the region. Actually, the administration is required to translate its commitment in practice. In our view, this commitment should not be translated into constant pressure on the Arab side to prove its sincere intentions regarding the peace process. All the Arab parties have affirmed time and again their commitment to the negotiating process and to reaching a just and comprehensive peace. Arab affirmation has not been limited to words alone but has been actually translated into numerous measures.

The fact that the negotiating process has bogged down is not the Arabs' fault. All the Arab parties, without exception, are concerned that the U.S. Administration's commitment to the peace process be translated into its fulfilling an active role in promoting the negotiating process. The major sponsor of the peace conference is expected not only to draw up schedules and dates, give advice and guidance, and intervene from a distance to solve disagreements and problems, but also to participate actively and directly, at the negotiating table, to manage the process.

The negotiating process, in its previous shape and without active U.S. intervention, had bogged down even before the deportation operation. If this process is to continue and lead to the desired results, the U.S. Administration has to draw the right conclusion from a year of stalled negotiations and assume more responsibility than just supervising this process.

Rift Between Hamas in Territories, Abroad Growing

TA1102144393 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Text] Knowledgeable sources claim that the rift between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the territories and the organization's leaders abroad has deepened. The sources believe that notwithstanding the gains in public relations as a result of the deportations, Hamas has sustained a severe blow which can only now be assessed.

The sources told 'AL HAMISHMAR that there are serious problems and lack of coordination among the zones of operation, so much so that serious squabbles erupt between the activists.

The sources added that there has been a considerable delay in the transfer of funds from the leaders abroad to activists in the territories. According to them, the arrest of two [as published] U.S. activists led to the detention of over 60 local activists and dealt a lethal blow to Hamas' attempts at a financial recovery.

The activists in the territories charge their overseas controllers of not giving them clear guidance following the latest meetings between Fatah and Hamas on how to treat Fatah operators. Local activists have been more than once surprised by leaflets initiated by the overseas leadership and distributed without their knowledge.

The sources further argue that the leaders of the deportees and top Hamas members in the territories have been demanding to step up military actions against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and Israeli civilians, including attacks on targets overseas. However, the overseas leadership objects to such a notion, arguing that increased activities would impair the international public relations efforts on behalf of the deportees.

According to the sources, recent Hamas graffiti has been calling on the population to hoard food and prepare for hard times. Many men have shaved their beards to be less conspicuous.

The sources assert that Hamas has lost power in several bodies it had controlled to date, such as the Hebron chamber of commerce. It has cut down activities in Nablus' al-Najah University and Gaza's Islamic University, and has altogether stopped operating entities such as the Association of Muslim Pulpiteers in Hebron.

'Arafat Receives Russian Envoy in Tunis

LD1102200993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received yesterday evening his excellency the ambassador of Russia to Tunisia. The brother president acquainted his excellency the ambassador with the latest developments of the current situation in the region in the light of the Israeli obstacles to the peace negotiations and Israel's refusal to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially UN Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of the deportees to their homeland. Also he explained to him the continued violation by the occupation authorities of Palestinians' human rights in the occupied territories, their escalation of the policy of killing against the sons of our people and its blessed intifadah, and their continuation of the iron-fist policy.

Algeria

Government, Local Collectives Meeting Begins

LD1102161393 Algiers APS in English 1057 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 11/02/93 (APS)—The government/local collectivities meeting started on Thursday [11 February] here in the presence of the head of the government, members of the government, high officials of the state and about 1200 cadres of the local elected of the administration and representatives of the civil society.

Eight communications will be presented during this meeting. They will be centered on the problems facing the main fields of the public life and difficencies of the administration.

These problems will be examined under their political, security, economic and social aspects.

The judicial frame of the exercise of public liberties during the last years, the part of the administration and executives, relation between the administration and people, the great social problems notably housing and employment.

The promotion of youth, the moralization of public life, local development and land improvement, human resources and the part of executives in the present conjuncture will be examined.

In his opening speech, the Home Minister, Mohamed Hardi indicated that "this meeting comes in the frame of efforts made by the state to use the living forces of the nation" which are, he added, "to play a "vanguard" part in this exceptional situation the country is living through".

This meeting, Hardi added, "expresses the interest public powers devote to concerns of citizens and the necessity to take them in charge".

Prime Minister's Comments Noted

LD1102205793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Reforming local administration is reforming the country. That was a major topic at today's meeting, held in the Palais des Nations at the Club des Pins, between the government and administration cadres. The meeting had as an objective preparing a draft law on provincial and municipal people's councils, improving local administration, dispelling ambiguity in administration management, and defining tasks because the current phase requires serenity of action and because the citizen now feels that the era of humiliation is over and that Algeria is for all Algerians. Today's proceedings were marked by the speech Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam delivered. This report from Mohamed Abbad:

[Abbad] Mr. Belaid Abdesselam delivered a lengthy speech which he opened by hoping that this debate would mark the beginning of a series of meetings. [passage omitted]

[Abbad] The prime minister recalled his meetings with the police, the National Gendarmerie, the Higher State Council, and also with cadres of the People's National Army. He recalled the conditions under which the government was formed, its program and the obstacles it faces. [passage omitted]

[Abbad] Mr. Belaid Abdesselam recalled the state's surrender respite to those involved in sabotage operations. He reiterated the government's readiness to open the door of mercy on the occasion of Ramadan and to give them an opportunity to come back to their senses.

[Begin Abdesselam recording] While the state uses the iron fist against those people who perpetrate the crimes which you know about, it keeps the door of mercy open to citizens and to its sons; to those who were lured by themselves or were lured by others who led them down the path of crime and sabotage; to those who got involved, for various known reasons, and who perhaps have not yet gone that far, the door of mercy still remains open. [end recording]

The head of the government recalled that the state, while offering this opportunity once again, is behaving as a Muslim state and that Algeria is in no need for advice in this respect. However, he stressed that the state will not reconcile with those who ask foreign countries to stop dealing with Algeria. He emphasized, in the mean time, the continuation of the state of emergency—a measure which is resorted to by many advanced countries to protect themselves and their institutions. He indicated that the security situation in the country is continuously improving.

[Begin Abdesselam recording] At the present hour we must say that conditions have greatly improved. The first improvement was that authority and power is resting with the security men, meaning with the state. The state is in control of the situation. Those people who aimed to subvert this state were unable to attain their objective. The security forces are in control of the situation and are constantly on the offensive. [end recording] [passage omitted]

French Economics Minister To Visit 13 Feb

LD1102123593 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 11/02/93 (APS)—The French Minister of Economy and Finance, Michel Sapin will pay starting from Saturday [13 February] a working visit in Algeria, during which he will examine with Algerian officials all the Algero-French economic relations and means of their relaunch.

The signature of "financial accords" as well as an accord on the promotion and the mutual protection of investments, 22nd of this kind that Algeria signed with other states, is announced on this occasion.

During his stay, the French minister will have talks with the Minister Delegate to Treasury, Ahmed Benbitour, and with several other Algerian officials.

According to the concerned milieux, several dossiers will be the subject of Algero-French discussions, which will be centered on both on the economic and financial cooperation and investments and partnership.

The two delegations will have to discuss the renewal of the protocol of financial agreement linking the two countries as well as the re-allocation of credits already scheduled for the year 1993, according to the same sources.

Shortly after his last visit in Algiers, where he expressed his country's will to help Algeria to overcome its difficulties, the head of the French diplomacy declared on the French programme of a French radio that France, "would stand, in this difficult phase, by the side of Algeria", and that "would be expressed through an economic and financial support", it is recalled.

Prisoners Released From In Amguel Security Camp

LD1002223093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Today, 52 inmates were freed from the security camp of In Amguel, near Tamanrasset. It has been announced that other people should also be liberated from that same camp and from the In Salah camp.

Egypt

Government Said To Seek Deportees Solution Soon

NC1102160893 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Feb 11 (AFP) - Egypt is working to return home within a few weeks hundreds of Palestinian deportees stranded in Lebanon in a bid to put the Middle East peace talks back on track, an official said Thursday [11 February].

Arab-Israeli negotiations have been deadlocked since Israel expelled 415 Palestinian fundamentalist suspects to Lebanon on December 17. Last week it announced a U.S.-inspired compromise to take back 101 Palestinians and reduce the term of exile by a maximum of one year of the others. In return, Washington would block UN sanctions against Israel.

Israel's Arab negotiating partners said the compromise offer was unacceptable and have demanded it comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799 ordering the return of all the men.

"We are not working on a new resolution but trying to find a formula to guarantee the return of the deportees within a few weeks, which seems like a reasonable deadline," the Egyptian official said.

He said their return was the "only solution" to "put the peace process back on track." [passage omitted]

Musa on Christopher Visit Agenda, Topical Issues

NC1202130293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Cairo next Thursday [18 February] comes amid difficult conditions facing the Middle East peace process and largely unstable circumstances in the Gulf, neighboring countries, the Mediterranean, and in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In statements today, Musa said all these developments concern us. There is a new U.S. Administration and a new secretary of state, with whom we need to meet. It is important for us to familiarize ourselves with the inclinations of the new administration, he said.

The foreign minister said that the problem of the Palestinian deportees is a pressing one. It will head the topics of discussions with the U.S. secretary of state, he said, adding that the talks will also focus on the peace process and its resumption, bilateral relations, and economic issues that require Egyptian-U.S. coordination.

He said the talks will also deal with Middle East disarmament and arms control, noting that the Egyptian-U.S. positions on this issue are different. A number of other subjects should be discussed with the new U.S. Administration as well, Musa said.

The foreign minister said the Middle East situation and the peace process involve two main points: the deportees and the resumption of the peace negotiations. Concerning the former, he said, the problem must be solved through the return of all the deportees as soon as possible.

He said Israel's decision to return 100 of the deportees is a step in the right direction but not enough. It cannot be viewed as the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

Musa said it is important that an agreement be reached, saying that the deportees must be returned within a short time frame.

Concerning the second point, Musa said the peace talks have been postponed until after the month of Ramadan [22 February-23 March], and may not resume before April. From now until April, he added, we will be able to end the deportee problem and make good preparations for their resumption.

He said some points of the peace process are facing some difficulties. This, he added, requires Egyptian-U.S. effort and coordination toward Israel and other sides so that the peace process can be put on the right track.

Musa discussed the U.S. role in Bosnia, saying the U.S. position is reasonable from three angles. First, it does not leave it entirely up to the EC or the United Nations to handle the problem. The United States, whose opinion is different from that of the EC and the United Nations, will

have its own representative. He said this is particularly important because the Islamic countries do not agree with the EC and UN proposals.

Second, Musa added, the United States believes there is a need to tighten the siege on the Serbs. This was proposed by neither the EC nor the UN representatives, which was a major deficiency in their plan. The American proposal is an important addition to the American plan on Bosnia, Musa said.

Musa explained that the third angle is represented in the fact that if this peaceful effort does not succeed, it will be possible to use force against the aggressor. He said this is another important point in the U.S. position, adding that this will be one of the topics he will discuss with the U.S. secretary of state during his visit to Cairo.

On Hala'ib issue, the foreign minister said there is no mediation between Egypt and Sudan because we do not need mediation; we can talk directly with Sudan.

He said the Joint Egyptian-Sudanese Committee will hold a meeting, and that contacts to fix a date are now under way.

Lebanese Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1102152893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening. He was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, a number of senior officials, and Lebanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh.

Formal reception ceremonies were held for Egypt's guest on his arrival.

Denies Remarks on Treaty With Israel

NC1102183093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Dispatch from Cairo by an unidentified NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent—live]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has denied having made any statement saying that Lebanon has agreed to conclude a peace agreement with Israel. He added: Lebanon entered the talks with Israel from the beginning of the peace conference in Madrid to secure the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied [Lebanese] territories. He added: Lebanon did not enter the negotiations on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. We entered the talks on the basis of implementing Resolution 425, which has nothing to do with the other two resolutions. This is Lebanon's position, which is clear and which I repeatedly have explained, he added.

Al-Hariri made the above remarks following his arrival in Cairo this evening on an official visit in response to an invitation by his Egyptian counterpart, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. He is leading a delegation comprising Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas, Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar, and a number of assistants and advisers. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation Begins Talks

NC1202080293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Fathi Surur has said Egypt will continue its principled stand supporting international legitimacy, saying that from this premise the Egyptian leadership and people stood with the Kuwaiti people and participated in the liberation of Kuwait. Surur was speaking during a meeting today with a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation led by Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, which is paying a five-day visit to Egypt.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Arab world and the effects of Arab division resulting from Iraq's deviation from Arab and international legitimacy and its invasion of a fraternal Arab state.

Al-Sa'dun praised the Egyptian position and said that he came to extend thanks, on behalf of the Kuwaiti people, to the Egyptian leadership and people for Egypt's efforts to eliminate the effects of the Iraqi aggression and restore legitimacy to Kuwait.

The two sides agreed to establish an Egyptian-Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship society under the chairmanship of the speakers of the two parliaments.

The Kuwaiti National Assembly delegation also met with Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, who announced that Egypt, under its wise political leadership, will always support Kuwait and all the Arab states. Dr. Hilmi added that Egypt is following up the Palestinian issue and the issue of the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes. The Consultative Council speaker said the existence of a clear vision of Arab unity to confront developments now and later is important.

Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Al-Sa'dun said Arab unity is necessary in light of the economic and political groupings, because it is the way to finding the best means for joint national security.

Musa Returns From Djibouti Talks 11 Feb

NC1202054893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1706 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening from a two-day visit to Djibouti, during which he chaired the Egyptian side in the Egyptian-Djibouti joint committee meeting.

During his visit, the foreign minister also delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon.

Nigerian National Security Adviser Arrives

NC1102222693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2121 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Lieutenant General Aliyu Mohamed Misau, Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida's national security adviser, arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days.

He was received by Ambassador Sayyid Sulayman, assistant foreign minister for African affairs, and the Nigerian ambassador in Cairo.

Paper Praises U.S. Step on Bosnia

NC1202085693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper says that if new U.S. Administration is really determined to send forces to Bosnia-Hercegovina to establish peace and step up sanctions against the Serbian Republic, which continues its attacks on the Bosnian Muslims, it would represent the first sound and necessary step toward ending decisively the Bosnian tragedy after Europe's attempts to dilute the cause.

In an editorial today, the paper adds that in similar cases of continued aggression against any people, it would be natural for the international community to intercede to stop the aggression or to try to solve the problem through peaceful means as guaranteed by the UN Charter. Subsequent measures can be taken to discuss the causes of the aggression and resolve issues peacefully. The way the crimes of the Serbian gangs were dealt with was surprising, AL-AKHBAR stresses.

The newspaper adds that the UN mediators' mission was confined to drawing up plans to disintegrate the victim state, to convincing the aggressor to cede some of its covetous designs in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and to obtaining the victim's approval to relinquish the largest part of its territory. The UN mediators have failed to adopt any firm or serious measures to stop the aggression and bloodshed, AL-AKHBAR adds.

AL-AKHBAR notes that if this situation persists, the real victim will be the nations' confidence in the UN's and Security Council's ability to defend them and safeguard their security. This situation will also corroborate the conviction that the United Nations is pursuing a double standard, which will cast doubt on its credibility, the paper concludes.

Paper Reports Plans To Develop Hala'ib

NC1102140693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today reported that an integrated plan has been drawn up to develop the Hala'ib and Shalatayn areas. The plan will be submitted to the cabinet in March. Citing a responsible source in the local administration ministry, the paper said the plan provides for the establishment of 10,000 houses at a cost of 100 million Egyptian pounds, five schools for various educational stages, three institutes belonging to al-Azhar Mosque. The plan includes providing both areas with all utilities and services and linking them to Cairo and other governorates. In addition, the plan entails giving facilities to all Egyptian and Arab investors to establish productive and services projects. Investors will be exempt from taxes on their projects for from one to five years, according to the extent the project provides commodities and job opportunities to the people of the two areas. The paper said that 10 aquifers will be dug at a cost of 50 million Egyptian pounds to irrigate and cultivate 20,000 feddans. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B's U.S. Edition Denounced

NC1202112093 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 8 Feb 93 p 5

[Report by Hisham Abu-al-Wafa]

[Excerpt] Sudanese opposition politicians and party officials have stressed that the agreement between [Sudanese National Islamic Front leader Hasan] al-Turabi and the greatest of the mujahidin [sarcastic reference to Egyptian Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri] to print an international edition of AL-SHA'B in the United States, financed by al-Turabi's supporters there, is yet a new link in the chain of suspect deals between the terrorist groups in Sudan and Shukri and his slaves.

The Sudanese opposition politicians and party officials believe the true aim of the deal is to find a nominal facade to ensure that the greatest of the mujahidin continues to receive funds at the expense of the bread of the Sudanese people, so that the paper can pursue its advocacy of extremism and support for worldwide terrorism.

The opposition politicians and party officials pointed out that the paper is a yellow duplication disseminating poison and avoiding objectivity and questioned why such a publication could have an international edition. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Involved in Attacks on Police Killed

NC1102220293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—A terrorist was killed in the Misr al-Qadimah area this evening during a shoot-out with police.

The terrorist, Sa'd 'Id Diyab, was involved in recent violence in Imbabah and was discovered hiding in the area. Ambushed by police, Diyab opened fire, forcing the officers to respond. He was killed on the spot.

It is believed that the terrorist was one of the dangerous elements involved in throwing incendiary bombs at police patrols in Imbabah and in criminal acts that terrorized the citizens.

Meanwhile, the Giza Security Directorate's forces continued their intensive campaigns in Imbabah to apprehend terrorists who had escaped police. The campaigns resulted

in the capture of a number of terrorists, including a dangerous terrorist called Hamdi Kamil, who took part in planning several terrorist operations. The last of these was throwing incendiary bombs at a police car last week, during which a police officer was burned.

Investigations reveal that the captured terrorist took part in a plan to assassinate two transport and communications security personnel as they guarded the railway authority's warehouse in Bulaq on the eve of the Police Day celebrations.

The terrorists were referred to the prosecutor's office for interrogation.

Abu-al-'Ula 'Abd-Rabbuh, the terrorist who was captured the day before yesterday, has confessed that he killed the two soldiers in collaboration with other terrorist elements in Bulaq.

During an search campaign in Imbabah today, security organs discovered an abandoned car containing automatic rifles and ammunition which probably were being stocked by terrorists in preparation for further operations. Efforts to apprehend these terrorist elements continue.

Libya

Blockade To Keep Official From AMU Meeting

LD1202101093 Tripoli JANA in English 0851 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, An-Nawar [February] 12, Jamahariyah News Agency—JANA learned that the continued implementation of the blockade on the Great Jamahariyah has blocked the participation of the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity from attending the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers meeting being held today (Friday), in Tunis.

A source at the General People's Committee for Unity, said that the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity was supposed to take part in line with the determination of the Great Jamahariyah to enhance the activities and endeavours of the joint unionist action and to strengthen the progress of the Arab Maghreb Union. But the continued implementation of the blockade imposed on the Arab-Libyan people and the attempts to lessen the damages inflicted on Arab Libyan citizens who are obliged to use the land route in their travel which resulted in the death of more than 690 citizens, have prevented the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity from participating in the todays meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers.

The source confirmed that the Great Jamahariyah is looking forward to the brothers, members of the union, executing what had already been agreed in the emergency meeting held by the Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers in Rabat recently which asserted in its final communique that the Great Jamahariyah had met all its obligations fully concerning the implementation of the UN security Council Resolution No 731. Accordingly the justification for the continued enforcement of the punitive sanctions against the Great Jamahariyah is not justified.

French Trade Union Leader Denounces Sanctions

LD1102155993 Tripoli JANA in English 1409 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, Nawwar [February] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Jean Bartholomew the head of the French Union Post, Telegraphs and Telecommunications (PTT) who is also responsible for the external affairs of the General Committee Workers Unions in France (CGT) denounced the unfair sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah through the false Resolution 748.

In an interview with JANA's correspondent in Tripoli he said that the unfair sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah had hidden aims and purposes such as the isolation of Libya from the Arab world.

He added that the French trade union movement rejected such measures and demands the immediate lifting of sanctions and the settlement of the whole issue through debate and dialogue and the search for the true facts.

He said that international law has been wrongly implemented as a result of the double standards and confirmed that international law has to be applied equally to all concerned parties on the basis of mutual respect and the respect of the sovereignty of either state and non-intervention in its affairs.

On the other hand Jean Bartholomew denounced the racist policies to which Arab immigrants in the West are subjected. He said that we are against such policies and confirmed that the practices against those immigrants are part of a racist trend which blames immigrants for France's economic ills.

Turning to the economic crisis facing the Western countries, Jean Bartholomew confirmed in his statement that the workers in France are in the grip of a serious economic crisis and that the purchasing power of French citizens declined by 18 percent in 1992.

He said that unemployment in France is five million—not the million as officially acknowledged. These figures are used to force workers to accept lower wages.

Sudan

One Killed, Several Hurt in Anti-Regime Protests

NC1102194193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Wad Madani, capital of Sudan's Central Province, has witnessed violent demonstrations against the high cost of living and the deterioration in the standard of living for all Sudanese.

Demonstrations also were staged in al-Qadarif in eastern Sudan, during which the demonstrators shouted slogans against the regime in Khartoum and against the policy of

the Sudanese Government and the Islamic Front led by Hasan al-Turabi. Police opened fire on the demonstrators, killing one and wounding about 40 others.

Al-Bashir Sees Off Pope at End of Visit

EA1102210793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpt] His Holiness Pope John Paul II ended his one-day visit this evening. Speaking during the send-off ceremony held at Khartoum International Airport in honor of the pope, Lieutenant General al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of Council of Ministers, stressed that in spite of its brevity, the visit had been successful at all levels and had produced positive results, particularly in terms of coincidence of views on the issue discussed. He said: We look forward to establishing strong ties of understanding and cooperation between the two states. He prayed that the pope would succeed in conveying his peace message to all the states of the world.

His holiness the pope of the Vatican spoke at the ceremony, saying: At the end of my tour of Africa, which comprised a number of states, I call on the leaders of those states to make greater efforts to meet the challenges facing their peoples by improving social conditions so as to achieve progress and development. He said: I pray to God from Khartoum to render the continent's peoples successful in achieving prosperity, to render the Government and people of Sudan successful in establishing peace, and to promote the efforts of men of the Islamic and Christian faiths towards bringing to realization the concepts of love in order to build Sudan.

Earlier this evening, his holiness the pope held a mass with readings from the holy book at the Green Square in Khartoum. It was attended by all the country's Christian denominations. [passage omitted]

Egyptian-Sudanese Committee on Hala'ib To Meet 19 Feb

NC1102211593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian-Sudanese committee on the Hala'ib issue will hold its next meeting in Khartoum on 19 February, Minister for Presidential Affairs Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din said today during a meeting with employees of the Sudanese radio. He said that the Egyptian Government's approval was received today in Khartoum.

Arab League Informed of Airspace Violations

JN1002112093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft taking off from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated the Iraqi airspace on Saturday and Sunday [6 and 7 February], posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative said that U.S., British, and French aircraft carried out 138 hostile sorties on those two days. He asked that this letter be circulated among the Arab League's member states in order to be aware of these regrettable facts. A list detailing these violtions was attached to the letter.

Protest to UN

JN1202143293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1102 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] New York, 12 Feb (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations about the continued violations of its airspace by American aircraft for reconnaissance and provocation purposes.

Flying over different areas in the north and south of the country at varying speeds and altitudes, the U.S. aircraft mounted 587 sorties from 31 January 1993 to 8 February 1993, according to a protest note to the UN secretary general.

Iraq's permanent delegate to the world body asked that the memorandum be treated as a Security Council document.

Group Urges Jordan To Lift Blockade, Return Planes

JN1202104093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Amman, 12 Feb (INA)—The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference-Jordan Branch has urged the Jordanian Government to help break the unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq by working to lift the air embargo and facilitating the flow of goods via Jordan to Iraq.

In a memorandum sent recently to the Jordanian prime minister, the General Secretariat said it hopes the Jordanian Government will work through legal channels to return the Iraqi planes still in Jordan, especially as, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, these planes are not covered by the embargo. Everyone knows that the case of the Iraqi planes in Jordan is completely different from that of the planes in Tunis, for example, the memorandum adds.

The memorandum explains that the Iraqis are aware of the pressures exerted on the Jordanian Government to cut down on the volume of goods transported via Jordan to Iraq, and thereby reduce the amount of food and medicine reaching the Iraqi people.

The memorandum adds: While highly appreciating the Jordanian Government's stand, the General Secretariat aspires for greater steadfastness by that government in the face of these pressures, which have started to wane with the fall of the blockade's star, Bush, and hopes that the goods will start flowing from Jordan to the brothers in Iraq.

The memorandum explains that the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people has gone beyond all acceptable and reasonable limits. It also says such an inhumane blockade has never been imposed against any people or nation in history, except our Arab people and nation, represented by Iraq.

The memorandum expresses the hope that the Jordanian Government will actively seek to act in that direction to help the Iraqi people, who are facing shortages not only of food, drink, and medicine, but also in other vital necessities of daily life.

Culture, Information Minister Receives Ramsey Clark

JN1102162193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today received Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general and head of the U.S. committee for exposing crimes. During the meeting, the minister reviewed the nature of the threats posed to Iraq by the states of aggression—threats that aim to strike at Iraq's civilization and awakening. He affirmed that Iraq has not demanded more than its legitimate rights and that it should be able to use its own resources to build its new human culture, away from foreign interferences in its domestic affairs.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi praised Ramsey Clark's noble efforts to reveal facts and expose the U.S.-Western allegations and the crimes that the hostile, treacherous coalition committed against the Iraqi people during its aggression.

Ramsey Clark expressed the desire that he be acquainted with facts and other developments related to the 30-state aggression, as well as with the health and food problems that the children of Iraq are experiencing as a result of the unjust blockade. He affirmed that he and his colleagues will sincerely and seriously work to convey and communicate further facts to the world public opinion so that it would be furnished with firsthand information on the negative impact left by the aggression against Iraq and the continued iniquitous blockade imposed on its people.

It is noteworthy that Ramsey Clark has written a book entitled *The Fire This Time; U.S. War Crimes in the Gulf.* Supported by information and facts, Clark noted in his book his observations on the results of the destruction sustained by economic and civilian facilities during the 30-state aggression.

The meeting was attended by the ministry under secretary.

Meeting With 'Aziz

JN1202120993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today received Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general and chairman of the international committee for exposing the aggressive war crimes against Iraq.

The deputy prime minister praised Clark's efforts and the activities of his committee to reveal facts and the damage which the Iraqi people and their civilian possessions sustained as a result of the 30-state aggression. He also praised the efforts made by the committee and Clark in calling for an end to the unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

Visits Health Minister, Children's Hospitals

JN1202150893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and acting minister of labor and social affairs, has received Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general and chairman of the international committee for exposing the aggressive war crimes against Iraq.

The minister pointed out to Mr. Clark the detrimental effects of the 30-state aggression on Iraq and the distress the ongoing unconscionable blockade is causing, especially to women, children, the elderly, and the chronically ill.. The minister cited an overall scarcity of medicines, and the complete unavailability of certain drugs.

Meanwhile, the former U.S. attorney general called at children's hospitals in Baghdad, which are disadvantaged by the scarcity or total lack of drugs, basic food items, and medical equipment and facilities.

Opposition Claims Posts on Kuwaiti Border Pulled Back

NC1102162493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The ostracized regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn continues its humiliating and defeatist policy of trying to get closer to the coalition countries by implementing all it is asked to do—even if at the expense of Iraq and the Iraqi people—as long as it will keep the tyrant in power.

Press sources have said that Saddam's regime, which glorifies the so-called Mother of Battles and claims to have won it, recently moved the Umm Qasr post to an unknown location. The regime also moved the Abu Musa post 700 meters back from its previous position. The same sources added that the ostracized regime had moved the Safwan post 2 km inside Iraqi territory as part of the policy of submission to the international resolutions.

It should be recalled that the tyrant's regime earlier declared that it would not move any of these posts, but, as usual, finally submitted to the international demands after an air strike was launched last month against its military installations.

Talabani Urges Opposition To Rally Against Saddam

LD1102123693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0838 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Feb KUNA—The Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani [secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] affirmed in a press interview published here today that the the Iraqi opposition, or any Kurdish side, refuses to have a dialogue with the Iraqi regime and Saddam Husayn, and said "we have put Saddam Husayn on the black list."

Asked about the capability of the Kurdish federation to hold out should Saddam Husayn continue to stay in power, Jalal Talabani pointed out in a special interview with AL-QABAS from his place of residence in Irbil, federal capital of liberated Kurdistan, that Saddam is weak, the morale of his army is low, and the international condition does not help the Iraqi regime to launch a wide attack.

He added that the Kurdish people can hold out if they succeed in overcoming the economic problems, especially since Saddam is facing economic and morale crises, a crisis of confidence, and isolation from the people. He pointed out that his continuation in power is attributed to a number of reasons, the most important of which are the disunity of the opposition forces, the lack of coordination between the forces of the opposition and the neighboring countries, the lack of coordination among the allied countries, and the termination of the war by the former U.S. administration without toppling Saddam.

As for the relations with the State of Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf countries, Talabani expressed a desire to establish fraternal links with Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf countries, referring to the visits he conducted to Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and affirming that he is still searching for the means and the exerted efforts for the sake of reaching out to Kuwait and the Arabian gulf countries.

Concerning the relations between the Iraqi opposition and the countries of the alliance, Talabani pointed out that the American forces are present in Turkey to prevent the Iraqi forces from attacking Kurdistan, and that meetings are continuing with them, and so are the contacts and understanding at all levels.

He referred to the meeting of the Iraqi opposition, which will convene in the next few days and which is expected to discuss to topple Saddam and other important issues.

Concerning the setting up of a Kurdistan federation with Iran, Turkey, or Syria, Talabani affirmed that there was a misunderstanding of the federal system in the region, which, he said, was a modern administrative system in the world that came to unite countries and not to divide them, and, according to international law, federation means the

maintaining of a united state with regard to sovereignty and foreign relations, and federation did not diminish the rights of the central state.

We are now enjoying independence, he said, but he called for joining the Iraqi state through a federal system. He stressed that the Kurdish people affirm the unity of Iraq, Kurds and Arabs, within a modern federal system. The Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani urged the states of the world to stand on the side of liberated Kurdistan which is blockaded due to the Iraqi Government's preventing the arrival of fuel to the Kurdish people.

He further said that there is a regional and international blockade that prevents the Kurds from importing the necessary raw materials to activate plants and reconstruct the region. He pointed out that among the other problems facing the Kurdish people is that of security due to the Iraqi Government's sending people to plant mines and explosives in public places continuously. He underlined the improvement of the government performance of the Kurdistan federation as the militias belonging to parties have been integrated and turned into regular army units similar to what the organization of the Iraqi Army would be after the toppling of the Saddam dictatorship, and he pointed out that the aim of building these forces was to defend Kurdistan.

SAIRI Denies Withdrawal From Iraqi National Congress

NC1102173093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] yesterday denied a report that it has withdrawn from the Unified Iraqi National Congress. In a statement released on this subject, SAIRI said the report on its withdrawal from the congress, which was formed recently in Salah-al-Din, is untrue.

Kurds Arrest 2 Connected to Murder of Australian Worker

NC1102161393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Kurdistan Front's gunmen in northern Iraq have arrested two people accused of being involved in the murder of an Australian working in the humanitarian aid program that provides assistance to the Iraqi Kurds. In a statement published yesterday, Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader Mas'ud Barzani noted that the two belong to a group working for the intelligence service of tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime. The group, he added, had carried out a series of criminal operations in northern Iraqi areas.

The Australian aid worker was killed last month in northern Iraq.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to U.S.

Comments on Butrus-Ghali Meeting

TA1202075993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in New York by anchormen Uri Paz and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Paz] Good morning to you, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning to you.

[Paz] We want to open on a European note. We heard this morning that the European Parliament adopted a sharp anti-Israel resolution in the wake of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees issue. The language, according to what was made public, was tempered somewhat, but even so the European Council of Ministers called for economic measures to force Israel to return the deportees. What is your reaction to this development?

[Peres] I have not seen this resolution, and I cannot react before perusing the exact wording. All I can say is that the 12 ministers with whom I met a week ago differentiated between these two issues. I believe that our negotiations with the Europeans will continue.

[Levi] Do you not regard this European move as a preparation for a possible Security Council session and for a similar resolution there?

[Peres] No. I must tell you that many of the European countries represented in the Security Council believe that such a session could harm the resumption of the peace negotiations.

[Levi] This was the subject of your meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali yesterday. Following this meeting, can you say that Resolution 799 has been taken off the Security Council's agenda?

[Peres] No, Resolution 799 has not been taken off. The United States and other countries, however, claim that the decisions adopted by the Israeli Government are in the spirit of this resolution and that they actually fulfill 799, although along a somewhat different timetable than that of the Security Council.

[Paz] Can we interpret this to mean that this affair will end without a Security Council session?

[Peres] That is possible, but until it actually happens it is only a possibility and not a certainty.

[Levi] Referring to Butrus-Ghali, Yitzhaq Rabin has recently said: You know who Butrus-Ghali is; talking to him is like talking to the wall. Did you find that Israel can communicate with the secretary general, or is he continuing to express his tough approach toward us?

[Peres] We should differentiate between criticism voiced on one particular occasion and our general attitude toward the United Nations. We are interested in establishing a good, fair, and close relationship with this international organization, as well as with its head, Mr. Butrus-Ghali, who is also participating in the peace process with Israel.

[Paz] You have not answered the question of whether the secretary general was hurt and offended by the criticism leveled against him.

[Peres] No, he was not hurt or offended. Butrus-Ghali is an experienced man who can differentiate between comments made on the spur of the moment and between a long-term process.

[Levi] From reports on your meeting with Butrus-Ghali, we learned that you claimed that the deportation was an exception and that no similar steps will be carried out in this direction and there will be no more deportations. Is this an official government decision?

[Peres] No, no, that is not what I said. I said deportations are not an Israeli policy but rather a deviation from Israel's policy. I did not make any promises regarding the future.

[Paz] So are more deportations possible in future?

[Peres] If the situation gets out of control, anything is possible, but in general this is not Israel's policy.

[Paz] Your meeting with Butrus-Ghali was confidential. There are rumors you discussed new ideas for solving the deportee crisis.

[Peres] Much of our meeting was private, but some of it was attended by other persons. I can only tell you with conviction that the government decision is not open to negotiations or to any moderation or changes. This position of ours is also supported by the United States. There is no need or desire on my part to change this position.

[Levi] The question is whether the United Nations or the United States expect additional steps on Israel's part?

[Peres] I do not think the United States expects Israel to take additional steps. I think that the United Nations also understands that this is our red line.

[Paz] The United Nations is subject to pressure from the nonaligned countries and the Arab countries. Do you believe Butrus-Ghali will withstand this pressure?

[Peres] Butrus-Ghali is not alone and neither are the nonaligned countries; there are other countries who believe that the most important thing is to resume the negotiations.

[Levi] Mr. Peres, when will the peace talks resume?

[Peres] I would like them to resume as soon as possible, but it will probably be only in April.

[Paz] Is there a precise date for the resumption of the talks?

[Peres] Not yet. I believe that the date will be determined following Mr. Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East.

[Levi] Even if the peace talks resume in April, it is conceivable that the deportee affair may have an adverse effect on the atmosphere.

[Peres] I think that the Palestinians are especially sensitive to this issue. They, too, face a dilemma. If they stand by the 415 deportees, this means they stand by Hamas, and Hamas is not exactly their twin brother—rather, it is their problem. The Palestinians, too, do not want Hamas to emerge from this affair victorious.

[Paz] In your meeting with Butrus-Ghali, you also raised the matter of navigator Ron Arad and the three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle. Did you receive the impression that the present secretary general is as determined as his predecessor to act on this issue? Did he appoint anybody to work on it? Is anything being done here?

[Peres] The secretary general told us that he appointed a special official to deal with this matter and that he personally has dealt with and will continue to deal with this issue to find a solution to what is a most difficult enigma for the families and for the entire Israeli people.

[Paz] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Hopes 'Understanding' Close

TA1102183793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by special correspondent Arye Golan in New York following a meeting with the UN secretary general "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, were you able to convince Butrus-Ghali that Israel has done enough on the deportee issue, or did you feel you were talking to the wall?

[Peres] No, I think Mr. Butrus-Ghali understands that right now the main issue is resuming the peace talks, and that as long as the threat, or the idea, of convening the Security Council is in the air, the resumption of the peace talks is postponed. I hope we are close to an understanding.

[Golan] Are there problems still?

[Peres] There will be until we complete the task. We have made a correct move. We said that the government decision was our last word, that we would engage in no more negotiations. We explained our point of view and called on the Security Council members to lend a hand to resuming the peace process. This means they have to make do with what we have proposed, because our proposals had been made quite in agreement with the spirit of Resolution 799.

[Golan] Was this acceptable to the present Security Council president, Moroccan Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi?

[Peres] I will not speak on his behalf. When he decides to speak up, he will say whatever he thinks is right. I will say nothing on his behalf.

Security Council Session Postponed

TA1102180493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report from New York by Arye Golan]

[Text] Moroccan Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi, who is the UN Security Council president, agreed with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that the Security Council need not be convened for the time being. He told Shim'on Peres that Council members would pursue informal consultations as long as the deportee-returning process continues. In this context, he mentioned the letter he received this week from Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi, which he described as significant.

As known, Ambassador Ya'aqobi's letter stated the Israeli Government's 1 February decision to bring back some deportees at once and to allow all the others to return by the end of 1993. He said the letter and the decision of the Jerusalem government are in principle compatible with UN Resolution 799. The Security Council president lauded the letter, which, he said, facilitates the informal consultations designed to prevent a Council session, which he believes will result in an uproar. The Moroccan ambassador, as well as Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thought the main effort should now be directed at renewing the peace talks between Israel and the Arabs.

Our foreign minister is now meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. He is trying to convince him to refrain from convening the Security Council at this point.

Released U.S. Citizen Denies Hamas Membership

TA1102182993

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT and Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 11 February carry reports detailing the circumstances surrounding the detention and release of Muhammad Tawfiq al-Hijjah, an American citizen detained on suspicion of smuggling in funds for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from the United States.

Both radios carry recorded interviews with al-Hijjah in his home in Bi'r Nabala shortly after his release, herewith transcribed in their entirety. Speaking in English, al-Hijjah says: "They tried to charge me about a member in Hamas and about some activities and something like that. I am not a member in Hamas. I didn't have no relation with Hamas. And they tried sometimes to make a relation in America, in the States, because I am an American citizen too."

Asked why he was released, he says: "The reason, I am sure, is because I am innocent and there is no charge for me; I am innocent and they released me. That is why, because as they told me, there is no proof, you know. That is why they released me. There is nothing against me."

Asked about his connection with the other two American detainees, he says: "They tried to say that they are my friends and that we have relations together and I don't

know—one of them is named Abu-Anas [Muhammad Jum'a Hilmi Jarrad] and the other one is named Abu-Ahmad [Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Salah]—and I didn't know them, never see them before. Just today, this morning, they bring me one of them which is named Mr. Abu-Anas from 'Ayn Yabrud, and that is the first time I know him." He further says: "I didn't know them before, I didn't hear and think about money or something like that, except one day the investigator told me that there is two people, American people like you here, we caught them."

The correspondent notes that al-Hijjah will undergo medical check-ups tomorrow at a hospital in Samaria in view of his claim that he suffered kidney pains during his incarceration.

IDF Refuses Comment

TA1202053793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Interview with Muhammad Tawfiq al-Hijjah, Palestinian-American released from detention in Israel, by territories correspondent Amir Hay at his parent's home in Bi'r Nabala on 11 February—recorded in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Hay] First of all, tell me: How was the interrogation?

[Al-Hijjah] They tried to link me with two Americans like myself, whom of course I did not know. I only learned about them by means of a Hebrew newspaper which I was shown. They told me this is Abu-Anas [Muhammad Jum'a Hilmi Jarrad] and this is Abu-Ahmad [Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Salah]. Of course, I told them that I had no connection with them whatsoever. Then, they inquired about the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] headquarters in the United States, since I carry a U.S. passport. Naturally, I have no connection at all with what they accused me of.

[Hay] Did they use force against you?

[Al-Hijjah] I believe that there was nothing left which they did not use against me during the interrogation. I believe they used all psychological means. I was hit by one of the interrogators. They resorted to everything at their disposal.

[Hay] Frankly, were you not connected in any way to Hamas in the United States?

[Al-Hijjah] As I said to the interrogators, I have no connection whatsoever with Hamas either in the United States or inside the homeland here.

[Television anchor Ya'aqov Ahime'ir adds following the interview: "The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman refused to comment on the remarks of Muhammad al-Hijjah, who was released from detention today."]

Wanted Hamas, Fatah Members Captured; Arms Seized

TA1102203693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Members of special units from the Army and the Border Police today captured two wanted Palestinians in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. The soldiers surrounded a building in which the two men were hiding. After heavy fire, including antitank missiles, was directed at the building, the men surrendered. No soldiers were injured during the operation. The two wanted men are suspected of being Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

[A similar report on Israel Television at 1900 GMT on 11 February says that "four wanted men belonging to the 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam squad, whose members had attacked Army soldiers and Israeli citizens, as well 10 abettors, were captured in the course of an operation initiated in Khan Yunus today." The report adds that "the troops also seized hand guns, hand grenades, dynamite sticks, and a lot of ammunition."]

In the Rafah area, the Army captured two armed local residents, one of whom had been wanted for a long period. The first was captured last night carrying a Carl Gustav rifle and ammunition. The commander of the army unit decided to lay an ambush, which succeeded in capturing another wanted armed man this morning. He was a member of Fatah, whom the Army had been trying to capture for three years.

The security forces this afternoon captured a 26-year-old wanted Palestinian, Ma'ruf Kabkhah, from the Janin area village of Barta'ah. On the wanted list for a year, Kabkhah is suspected of being a Fatah activist and of capturing and interrogating local residents he believed were cooperating with the authorities. During the operation, the Army spokesman said that three villagers, who threw stones at the soldiers, were arrested. The soldiers fired at Kabkhah's father, who sustained moderate leg wounds. According to the Army spokesman, he was attempting to run away and refused soldiers' orders to stop. He was treated by soldiers and then sent to hospital.

IDF Denies Helicopter Attack in South Lebanon

TA1102172293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Fire was exchanged in south Lebanon this afternoon between terrorists on the one hand and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] on the other after a roadside charge exploded near an SLA patrol east of Majdal Slim. No one was hurt in the explosion. IDF and SLA guns subsequently fired at terrorist targets in the sector.

Lebanese sources reported that Israeli combat helicopters had fired rockets at Majdal Slim houses used by terrorists, but IDF sources told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that no helicopter attack had been carried out.

Lebanese sources also told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that terrorists had fired at SLA positions in the Tallusah area.

Two IDF Soldiers Wounded by Gunfire in Gaza

TA1202102593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were wounded by shots fired from a car in the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza this morning.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that at approximately 0800 local time, an Israeli reserve soldier driving a civilian vehicle was shot at from a car bearing Gaza license plates which was driving through the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. The soldier suffered moderate injuries. Immediately after this incident, the terrorists fired shots at a patrol jeep, slightly wounding one of the soldiers manning the jeep.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the soldier who suffered moderate injuries was taken by helicopter to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he underwent surgery on his chest.

Peres, Rabin Said To Differ on Elections

TA1102124393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Feb 93 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Mikha Friedman]

[Text] Recently, differences have appeared between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres regarding elections in the territories. According to senior political sources, Rabin has expressed strong reservations about Peres' proposal to immediately hold elections for a Palestinian representation to the negotiations with Israel and for the autonomy council.

In internal discussions, Rabin made it clear that he has never approved such a plan and that it might sabotage the Madrid formula and delay the negotiations. In an interview with HA'ARETZ, Peres confirmed that the government stand, contrary to his own, is that an agreement with the Palestinians on the concept of autonomy should precede elections in the territories. According to him, it will be very difficult to promote the peace negotiations without elections.

In the interview, Peres said that the repeal of the ban on meetings with PLO activists was part of the attempt to thaw the relations with the Palestinians and part of a series of gestures already made in the territories. He confirmed that he met with Faysal al-Husayni and stressed that he will meet with him again in the future.

Peres clarified that "the deportation is not part of the government's policy; it was an irregular act." He said that although he was not party to the deportation decision when it was made, being a cabinet member, he shares the responsibility. In a conversation he held with three Republican U.S. senators, Peres for the first time expressed the Israeli stand according to which the arrangement with the Americans on the deportees corresponds with UN Security Council Resolution 799.

The foreign minister declared that he will not challenge Rabin's leadership but, if he believes that the peace process is being delayed because of Israel, he will draw the necessary conclusions. Peres further claimed that there is no organized Peres camp within Labor and that the Knesset members affiliated with him have not met for nearly seven months. According to him, he cannot explain legitimate differences with Rabin "because this is immediately perceived as a personal quarrel. I feel I have suffered injustice in this respect, and I would not like to add to it."

Decree Bans Jewish Construction in Territories

TA1102150093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Feb 93 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Several days ago, Major General Dani Yatom and Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i, the respective commanders of the Central and Southern Commands, endorsed a decree forbidding settlers from building in the territories, drawing up master plans for settlements, and promoting preconstruction procedures.

The decree orders the termination of master plans for Jewish settlements, local councils, and regional councils, and of preconstruction procedures. Furthermore, local and regional councils in the territories as well as the Supreme Planning Authority or any other body will stop presenting and promoting master plans for Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said that the new decree in fact conforms with the decision the government made when it assumed power six months ago, whereby the government would have to approve any new construction in the territories.

According to the sources, the generals signed the decree because the government is not sovereign in the territories. The sources said the decree is sweeping and comprehensive, and bans the construction of additional rooms or the paving of roads in locations for which a master plan has not been approved.

Several settlements have approved master plans which will not be canceled by the decree. It has been learned that settlers continue to build in some small settlements in defiance of the decree.

In the wake of the decree, the heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip filed a petition with the High Court of Justice demanding that the decree be canceled. The petition was filed against the defense minister, the commanders of the regional commands, and the construction and housing minister.

The petition claims that "the decree discriminates against Jewish settlers and in favor of Arab residents in the territories for racial and ethnic reasons, in the spirit of the White Paper policy." The court held a preliminary hearing on the petition, and referred it to a panel of three judges.

Warren Christopher To Visit Amman 19-20 Feb

JN1102181493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Jordan on the second leg of his Middle East tour which aims to activate the Arab-Israeli peace process. Our radio learned that Christopher will arrive in Amman from Cairo, which will be the first stop in his Middle East tour, on 19 February for a two-day visit.

Christopher will then leave Amman for Damascus and Riyadh, and then for Israel, the last leg of his tour, after which he will leave for Europe. Although Christopher will not visit Lebanon in this tour, he might meet with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Syria.

In Amman, the U.S. secretary of state will meet with King Husayn and will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on the peace process and the issue of Palestinian deportees that constitutes a major obstacle to this process.

Christopher Talks Said To Tackle Iraq Blockade

JN1102095893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Feb 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Positive Signs on Ending Iraq's Isolation"]

[Text] There are certain positive, satisfactory signs of the beginning of an objective development toward ending the diplomatic and political isolation imposed on fraternal Iraq. Good efforts are needed to boost these signs and turn them into a tangible reality.

A few days ago, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir stressed to the House of Representatives the need to intensify efforts on the international level to end the blockade that has been imposed on Iraq for more than two and a half years despite its abidance by UN resolutions. The prime minister's statement emphasizes Jordan's pan-Arab stand toward the dilemma of the Iraqi people, who are suffering a crude injustice.

This issue will certainly be one of the principal topics to be discussed with the U.S. secretary of state during his forthcoming visit to the region. Jordan firmly believes that it is high time for Iraq to break free from the economic, diplomatic, and political isolation imposed on it without any justification, especially after it had proved in practice that it abides by UN resolutions.

Also yesterday, the foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey, and Iran—three principal states bordering the fraternal country—began meetings in Damascus to discuss the situation in Iraq. It was satisfying to hear statements from the three ministers emphasizing the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and opposing the establishment of a Kurdish state in the north—an objective sought by the secessionists—because such a secession threatens not just Iraq, but also security and stability in the entire region. While expressing our satisfaction with such a responsible trend, we call for supporting it with practical political steps to improve ties with Baghdad and terminate aid or support for the forces of secession and rebellion.

Iraq has expressed on more than one occasion a readiness to normalize relations with all the states with which it has been in disagreement since the Gulf crisis, particularly the United States, the Arab Gulf states, Egypt, and others, and called for a direct dialogue with these parties. The latest of these positive, responsible initiatives was the message which 'Arafat conveyed from President Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the latter's statements yesterday in which he confirmed that Egypt is studying the matter.

It is high time the Arabs cast aside a tribal mentality in their political action and overcome the past with all its tragedies. They have no other way but solidarity, without which the nation will remain divided and fall victim to covetous parties.

It is probably important to note here the Russian leadership's recent positive initiative to send an envoy to Baghdad for the first time since the Gulf war to discuss means to improve bilateral ties. Moscow would not have taken such a step if it had not realized the need to pursue a new policy toward Iraq following its abidance by and implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. This trend is pursued by a major power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council which participated in adopting all UN resolutions against Iraq.

We reaffirm the need to open dialogue, and a new chapter with Iraq. Iraq is a principal country in this region, and security and stability cannot be achieved in the region without its effective participation.

Bin-Shakir, al-Husayni Urge Implementation of 799

JN1102144293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning. Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and Palestinian Ambassador al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim attended the meeting.

They discussed the issue of continuing the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination of stands on the peace process in light of the obstacle created by Israel's deportation of 400 Palestinians from their homeland. His excellency the prime minister and al-Husayni asserted that Israel should fully implement Security Council Resolution 799 so that the peace process can be resumed in an atmosphere of good faith in order to obtain a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and the Middle East issue on the basis of international legitimacy and in implementation of the land-for-peace principle.

The talks also dealt with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming visit to the region and the U.S. role in the peace process. The two sides stressed that

implementing the UN resolutions according to one yardstick and playing an effective role in applying human rights slogans to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will, in the opinion of the Arab negotiator, give the peace process the momentum that will lead to permanent stability and peace in the region based on justice and humaneness.

In a press statement after his meeting with his excellency the prime minister, Faysal al-Husayni stressed the need to find a solution to the Palestinian deportees' issue by fully implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799. He expressed his belief that if this resolution is implemented and if the policy of deportation undertaken by the Israeli authorities is canceled, then the road will be open for the continuation of the peace process in the region. Regarding differences in the Palestinian-U.S. viewpoints on Resolution 799, he asserted that the recent Israeli actions and measures are not in line with full implementation of this resolution. This resolution is a matter of principle for the Palestinians, he added.

Crown Prince Leaves on Visit to France, Italy

JN1202123793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, accompanied by Her Highness Princess Tharwat, left Amman for France and Italy this morning on a working visit that will last a few days. [passage omitted]

Poll: Most Opposed to Federation With Palestine

TA1102160093 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

["Exclusive" to AL-NAHAR]

[Text] Amman—Some 54.2 percent of Jordanian respondents have said that they do not support any form of federation between Jordan and Palestine, while only 44.5 percent supported such a relationship.

This surprising result in Jordan came in the wake of a poll conducted by Dr. Muhammad Jihad al-Shuraydah on the Jordanian public's tendencies about the Middle East peace talks. The poll included a sample representation of Jordanian society, and comprised an analysis of 1,140 questionnaires distributed among 69 percent of males and 31 percent of females. The questionnaires were also distributed objectively and accurately on the basis of geography and age. The respondents included over 700 male and female university graduates.

The question was: If peace is achieved and Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories, will you support the establishment of any form of federation between Jordan and Palestine?

Yes, 508 respondents—44.56 percent; No, 618 respondents—54.21 percent.

The other questions in the poll, which covered a variety of topics, were:

Do you support the peace process? Yes, 74 percent; No, 21 percent.

Do you believe that if peace is realized, it will have a positive impact on the region? Yes, 95.3 percent; No, 1.8 percent.

What effects will a peace settlement have on the region? Positive, 89.8 percent; Negative, 4.3 percent.

Has the search for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict been initiated by U.S. diplomacy? Yes, 88.5 percent; No, 10.3 percent.

Do you believe that the United States will exert pressure on Israel if the peace process is deadlocked? Yes, 2.1 percent; No, 96.4 percent.

Do you believe that the Arabs were forced to enter into the negotiations because of the current circumstances? Yes, 85.3 percent; No, 12.1 percent.

Do you support the withdrawal of the Jordanian delegation negotiating with Israel if no progress is achieved in the other tracks? Yes, 23 percent; No, 72 percent.

Do you believe that the PLO actually affects the Palestinian decision-making regarding the talks with Israel? Yes, 86.3 percent; No, 10.5 percent.

Do you believe that some sort of peace will be achieved between the Arabs and Israel? Yes, 68 percent; No, 27 percent.

Are you in favor of resorting to the military option if the talks with Israel fail? Yes, 72.5 percent; No, 23.2 percent.

Deportees' Health Condition Said Deteriorating

NC1202070993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The health condition of the Palestinian deportees has deteriorated due to snow storms, bad weather, and food shortages.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has accused the United States of pursuing a double standard policy with regard to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. He said the deportees insist on closing the door on Israel's policy of deportation of Palestinians. Al-Rantisi said he has confidence UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali will honor his promises that either Israel will implement Resolution 799 or he will call the UN Security Council to meet to adopt adequate measures and ensure the return of the deportees.

In his statement, Dr. al-Rantisi said he has sent messages to Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad underlining the repercussions of the deportation crime and exposing the Zionist scheme on the issue.

Hizballah's Russian Trainers Said Executed

NC1102120693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 11 Feb (MENA)—Citing reliable sources, the Algerian newspaper LIBERTE today reported that Russian officers who trained Hizballah forces in Lebanon were executed in Beirut in the autumn of 1992 after it was proved that they were working for the Israeli intelligence service with the aim of establishing mole cells inside Hizballah and assassinating its leaders.

The paper says the officers arrived in Lebanon via Tehran and added that Hizballah is now recruiting former East German officers for the same purpose [training Hizballah forces]. It said the Iranian authorities, who strictly control the passage of equipment to Hizballah and examine each new recruit, approve of the recruitment of these officers.

People Living Near Hizballah Warned To Leave

NC1202095193 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Following the blast caused by an explosive device in the Tallusah area yesterday, our correspondent, citing reliable security sources in the border strip, said terrorist attempts and operations by Hizballah personnel from their bases in Majdal Slim have increased. The operations include firing Sagger rockets on the border region.

The sources said the names of the Hizballah elements are known, adding that the demolition of the home of Mahdi Silm Jawad Yasin, a Hizballah official in Majdal Silm, and of the homes of officials 'Ali Khayr-al-Din and Musa Khayr-al-Din last night mark only the beginning of operations that will be carried out against Hizballah personnel in the village.

The sources urged civilians living near Hizballah personnel's homes to vacate their houses immediately to avoid harm, otherwise they will have only themselves to blame.

Resistance Claims 5 SLA Soldiers Killed

NC1102191093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Two Israeli helicopter gunships raided the village of Majdal Silm in the south this afternoon and fired four rockets at three homes. The raid was mounted two hours after two resistance attacks against the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. Security sources have said that a bomb [as heard] planted on the road went off as an SLA patrol was passing in the Tallusah area. Only a few hours after the explosion, resistance men attacked an SLA position in Tallusah with rockets and large-caliber machine guns.

A statement by the resistance said five SLA elements were killed. Security sources within the security strip, however, denied any casualties.

In retaliation for the two attacks, the Israeli forces fired scores of artillery shells at a number of villages, particularly Qabrikha and Majdal Silm.

Our security correspondent cites an officer in the Ghanaian unit of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon as saying that a shell landed a few meters away from the Ghanaian post in Majdal Silm. Shrapnel hit the post, but none of the personnel was injured.

Phalangist Party's 'Dissident Members' Disciplined

NC1202073893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpt] At a plenary session today, the Phalangist Party's Honorary Council read out the sentences issued against 10 dissident members who set up a salvation panel. George Kassab, Alfred Madi, Khalil Basil, and 'Adil Saqr were expelled from the party completely, while the others were suspended for a year. Our correspondent George Shahin reports:

As you noted, the Phalangist Party's Hornorary Council today recommended that the members of the salvation panel—George Kassab, Alfred Madi, Khalil Basil, and 'Adil Saqr—be expelled from the party. It also decided to suspend for one year the membership of Georgette Antone, Emile Farah, Joe Sarkis, Farid Habi', Ibrahim Haddad, and Samir Zighrini. The sentences were issued in absentia.

In its decision, the Honorary Council justified the expulsions by saying that the members had ignited a fuse and urged a rebellion, refused to hand over the party centers, and assaulted the party leadership. [passage omitted]

Columnist Says Beirut Slums 'Erupting Volcano'

NC1202090393 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 31 Jan 93 p 2

[From the "AL-DIYAR Torch" column by Muwaffaq Madani: "The Slums"]

[Excerpts] The secret of U.S. President Bill Clinton's victory over former President George Bush in the recent elections is in the slums. Bush did not pay enough attention to the rising phenomenon of slums in the United States while Clinton focused on the issue of the underprivileged in his election campaign. In previous elections the issue of slums wasn't a priority, but it has gained prominence from the current U.S. economic crisis.

Lebanon's problem with slums is an old one. In fact it is one of the most serious problems of the last 30 years. The poverty belt surrounding Beirut was formed in the sixties and seventies from the underprivileged of various sects. It was from these Beirut slums that the 'Ayn al-Rummanah incident set off the civil war in 1975. [passage omitted]

It is absolutely essential to address the problem of the slums and begin reconstruction if we want stability in Beirut. The belt of misery, which has expanded into entire cities, can no longer by ignored. The people in the slums are more realistic than those in the rest of Lebanon, their demands stem from legitimate needs. Beirut's slums are not the only breeding ground for extremism, however. The problems of the underprivileged have spread throught the world, even to the United States. Slums are not isolated to Egypt and Algeria, where the problem has created violent Islamic fundamentalist movements. [passage omitted]

The chamber of deputies is currently examining draft plan to develop the slums. It is one of the most important plans for Lebanon. The parliament members, who mostly represent the underprivileged rural areas, have also been called upon to confront this problem. They are required to debate the government's program. As Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has stated, they must examine the deep-rooted reasons that have turned Beirut's suburbs into a permanently erupting volcano. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Brotherhood Seen Favoring Islamic Lawyers Group

NC1002102593 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 Feb 93 p 13

[Text] A delegation of the Egyptian Bar Association led by Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna (son of Shaykh Hasan al-Banna, founder of the Islamic Brotherhood Movement) arrived in Beirut at the beginning of last week. The delegation stayed at the Summerland Hotel where it met specific Lebanese political parties, certain Arab political figures staying in Lebanon, and others.

It is known that there is sharp disagreement between the Brotherhood in the Bar Association and the Arab Lawyers Federation because the latter refused to elect al-Banna to its council during its recent conference in Tunis. The differences have arisen and been aggravated since the Muslim Brotherhood assumed control of the Bar Association in Egypt, despite the fact that Ahmad al-Khawajah, an independent, remained chairman.

Sources have revealed that the visit of the Egyptian Bar Association delegation headed by Ahmad al-Banna comes within the framework of efforts to establish an Islamic Lawyers Federation parallel to and competing with the Arab Lawyers Federation.

The sources add that al-Banna previously held contacts for this purpose with lawyers in Jordan and Sudan, and that his current visit to Beirut is a basic part of his campaign to establish the Islamic Lawyers Federation.

It is worth mentioning that the Nasirist lawyer Tahani al-Jabali was a member of the Egyptian delegation, which officially and openly came to express solidarity with the Palestinian deportees. However, the Brotherhood group in the Bar Association acted separately from this official mission.

[Beirut AL-SHIRA' publishes the following related report on page 8 of the same edition: "Ahmad al-Malat, 77, member of the Muslim Brotherhood Guidance Bureau in Egypt and candidate to succeed the present Brotherhood guide, Hamid Abu-al-Nasir, visited Beirut for three days. His visit coincided with a visit by four Egyptian Brotherhood lawyers to Beirut.

["Al-Malat visited al-Biqa' and met with pro-Iranian Islamic groups there. He then left for Beirut to coordinate his activity with the Egyptian lawyers."]

Algeria

Khaddam Interviewed on Various Issues

NC1102091593 London MBC Television in Arabic 1719 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Nidal Qabalan on the "Face-to-Face" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Qabalan] At the beginning of this interview, we welcome Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. We welcome you to the MBC Television screen. We begin the interview by asking about the peace process, which heats up and cools down periodically. How do you assess the course of the Arab-Israeli peace process so far?

[Khaddam] In fact, after more than a year, I can say we are still at square one. No progress has been made on this issue, which preoccupies the Arab and world public.

[Qabalan] How do you explain this lack of progress?

[Khaddam] The lack of progress is a result of Israel's stand. Israel clearly refuses to implement the two UN Security Council resolutions. Consequently, it refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. As far as we are concerned, the withdrawal issue is the main element in the peace process. When the Israelis maneuver and try to evade discussing the withdrawal issue, matters will naturally get complicated.

[Qabalan] Observers say Rabin and Shamir are two faces of the same coin. What do you think?

[Khaddam] Both of them act in accordance with Zionist war strategy and work in the interest of Israeli expansion. No new or serious signs have appeared indicating that there has been a serious change or transformation toward peace based on international legitimacy.

[Qabalan] Yitzhaq Rabin said recently that 1993 will be the year of peace with the Arabs. How do you view these remarks in light of your comments?

[Khaddam] If we observe the course of the talks and Israeli statements, we cannot be optimistic. It is up to the Israelis to make 1993 the year of peace. If the Israelis decide to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights—in other words, if they approve the bases of peace contained in the two Security Council resolutions—the door will be open for achieving a comprehensive settlement in the region.

[Qabalan] How do you view the future of the Golan Heights in any possible peaceful settlement with Israel?

[Khaddam] The Golan Heights are part of Syria. They will remain part of Syria now and in the future. Any settlement that does not lead to a comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal from the Golan Heights cannot be achieved. The entire Golan Heights must be returned to Syria.

[Qabalan] Reports have circulated recently about the possibility of a phased settlement involving the Golan Heights. Can you confirm the possibility of any such settlement?

[Khaddam] This matter was not discussed during the talks or outside the talks, particularly since the Israelis have still not admitted the importance or precedence of withdrawal from the Golan. The principle of withdrawal is still under consideration as far they are concerned. However, we consider the principle to be settled.

[Qabalan] Can we say that Syria has shown all its cards at the peace negotiations table and that the ball now is in Israel's court?

[Khaddam] We presented a clear-cut stand based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The ideas introduced by Israel are outside the framework of these two resolutions. Consequently, there were no points of agreement during the talks.

[Qabalan] The U.S. secretary of state will visit the region soon. What are your expectations from this visit?

[Khaddam] We have to wait for the U.S. secretary's visit and see the next steps taken by the new U.S. Administration. We will consult with fraternal Arab states to select the approach that will serve our Arab interests.

[Qabalan] This leads us to a natural question Mr. Khaddam. Frankly, have you sensed any change in the Clinton administration's stand on the Arab-Israeli peace issue?

[Khaddam] This administration has not been put to a serious test as yet. Only a few weeks have passed since the new administration took over. We cannot judge this administration so quickly. We do not want to judge it on its campaign slogans. We must wait and see. We will be able to determine whether this administration is following new policies or old ones after we hold discussions.

[Qabalan] When Iraq violated international resolutions, the international community adopted a resolute stand. Israel violates international resolutions on almost a daily basis. The last of these violations was the deportation of Palestinians. As a government, how do you deal with what everyone describes as a clear double standard in applying international resolutions?

[Khaddam] This double standard exists. This is not new; it is not the first time double standards have been applied in connection with Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Certain world powers act in a manner that serves their own interests and Israel's interest. Naturally, we had hoped that they would not be applied this time. We had hoped that these powers would assume ser?ous stands to implement UN Security Council resolutions to maintain the slight degree of credibility. However, all objective citizens and officials alike clearly see that there is no standard. This will certainly damage the regional situation and stability. When people feel there are two different norms, one for Arabs and another for the Israelis, this creates negative impressions and leads to political and intellectual tendencies that will not contribute to stability in the region.

[Qabalan] Is there any Arab coordination to adopt a united stand on these double standards and, perhaps, to pressure for changing the norms applied by the U.S. Administration and the United Nations in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Khaddam] Of course there are contacts. We are all aware of the current discord and lack of cohesion among Arabs. This has weakened Arabs and their stands and encouraged others to adopt measures that serve the enemies and fail to serve the minimal Arab interests.

[Qabalan] Let us go back quickly to the deportees. We have noticed that at the beginning, Israel refused to return any of the deportees. Then it said some of the deportees had been mistakenly expelled. Then it said it would permit 11, and now 101, to go back. What are the Israelis trying to do?

[Khaddam] They want to say that they are masters with absolute freedom; that they are the ones who decide and act; that they make their own decisions away from the framework of international organizations. Naturally, the issue of the deportees has caused worldwide popular and official reaction against Israel. In an attempt to absorb these reactions, some maneuvers are under way to return some of them at one time and a second group later. However, the dangerous thing about this matter is the possibility that Israel's refusal to comply with the Security Council resolution may be accepted. In addition, they are trying to set a new precedent involving expulsion. Unless this matter is dealt with seriously, Arabs will, before long, find thousands of Palestinians thrown out of the occupied territories. This would certainly add a new burden to the current Arab situation.

[Qabalan] Is there any contact or coordination between the Syrian Government and these deportees?

[Khaddam] We are standing firmly on their side. It is a matter of principle for us. As a matter of principle, we do not accept that any citizen can be evicted or thrown out of his country to another country, regardless of whether this person is in Palestine or anywhere else. On the other hand, again a matter of principle, it involves the destiny of the Palestinian people, and we are concerned with their fate because they are part of us. Primarily, the ongoing conflict between the Arab nation and Zionism broke out over Palestine. It developed later after Israel's occupation of some parts of Arab territory in 1967. We are, therefore, concerned about the Palestinian brothers and the need to support and assist them while they are struggling for a just cause; namely, the liberation of their country from Israeli occupation.

[Qabalan] The Western press, particularly in recent times, has published reports on some sort of secret contacts between Syria and Israel, which we know you have denied in a recent press interview. Could you reconfirm that no contacts outside the framework of the negotiations have taken place?

[Khaddam] These so-called contacts are absolutely groundless, and I can deny them totally: They never took place.

[Qabalan] Why have such rumors been raised?

[Khaddam] Maybe some Israeli forces are behind them in the hope that they will cast doubts. They could be the work of some Arab forces or parties that seek to open the door for contacts with the Israelis, so they use Syria as a means to justify such contacts. However, everybody knows the rumors are untrue; the Israelis have even denied it.

[Qabalan] You have spoken about the pressure that some international quarters are putting on Israel to change its stand. Do you believe this pressure was behind the recent Knesset decision to legitimize contacts with the PLO?

[Khaddam] Israel's contacts with the PLO are in Israel's best interest, not the Palestinians'. We do not assess any Israeli decision on the basis of contacts with this or that person or with this or that side, but on the basis of this decision's negative or positive impact on the essence of the conflict, the land and rights. We cannot consider as positive any Israeli decision that does not lead to the recognition of Arab rights to land and the Palestinian people's political rights and that does not serve or acknowledge these rights. The Israelis make decisions only within the framework that serves their interests.

[Qabalan] Let us leave the peace file and move to the Lebanese file, of which you are the official in charge. Can you explain the features of Syria's policy toward the fraternal Arab country, Lebanon?

[Khaddam] Our policy on Lebanon is founded on the following principles:

1. Safeguarding Lebanon's unity.

2. Stopping the war and reestablishing peace and stability in Lebanon.

3. Achieving national detente.

4. Enabling the Lebanese state to shoulder its responsibility, run the country, and impose law and order.

5. Achieving Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon.

[Qabalan] How do you view the performance of the new Lebanese Government of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri on the road to achieving these aims?

[Khaddam] The Lebanese Government is making good efforts to implement the National Accord Charter and the government policy statement. Lebanon has just emerged from a 17-year-long civil war that destroyed everything. Most public utilities, including the infrastructure, have been destroyed. The war has had great psychological effects. It has destroyed an important part of Lebanese life. Since the approval of the National Accord Charter, successive Lebanese Governments have worked to end these difficult and complicated conditions. We hope the Lebanese Government can overcome all the difficulties. Within the framework of its commitment to Lebanon, Syria will provide all assistance within its power to the Lebanese state in order to help surmount difficulties and restore full stability and peace to Lebanon. We believe Lebanon has made important strides toward stability, security, and

peace. The war in Lebanon has ended and will not return. It is difficult for anyone to reignite the war. What is important is to help the Lebanese embark on development and reconstruction so that Lebanon will recover its full role on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels.

[Qabalan] You say war will not return to Lebanon. What gives you this confidence in light of the strange situation there, such as the presence of militias' [word indistinct] forces in Lebanon?

[Khaddam] The militias are no more. The militias are the parties' armed organizations. A decision was made and implemented to disband them, so the militias no longer exist. The large- and medium-caliber weapons have been collected and I believe the Lebanese Government has programs to complete the collection of the remaining light weapons.

This is on the one hand. On the other, after feeling the dangers and pain of war, the Lebanese citizen has begun to realize the importance of not creating conditions for a return to war.

[Qabalan] What about the sides that try to exploit the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon and other issues to impede the National Accord process in Lebanon?

[Khaddam] These sides have no serious influence in the Lebanese arena. It is Lebanese public opinion that really counts. We are also interested in the Lebanese state's institutions. But a hired voice or an evil voice raised here and there does not represent a problem for Lebanon or Syria.

[Qabalan] Lebanon is currently gripped by difficult economic problems. Is there any Lebanese-Syrian coordination to tackle these economic difficulties?

[Khaddam] Lebanon faces huge economic problems because of the war. Its infrastructure was destroyed. Lebanese enterprises left during the war. Business operations came to a halt. Lebanon is a country of services; it has neither industrial nor agricultural production. The Lebanese economy is not based on industry or agriculture.

So the accumulation of the war's problems and the requirements of reconstruction have generated huge economic difficulties. The Lebanese Government is endeavoring to compile programs and plans to ride out these difficulties. This issue cannot be resolved overnight. There is no magician who can turn the difficulties and burdens into benefits. Everyone must work to achieve this objective, which also needs everyone's cooperation and support. Within our limits, we in Syria help the Lebanese state to overcome such difficulties. I believe that our assistance to Lebanon is represented in achieving an atmosphere of security and stability, in the absence of which nothing can be solved. I believe development had already started in Lebanon.

[Qabalan] There might be no magician to resolve all these issues or change the Lebanese economy, but there are people who believe that Syrian-Lebanese unity could achieve this miracle. What is your opinion?

[Khaddam] Every Arab citizen from the Arab Maghreb to the Arab East aspires to Arab unity. As for Lebanese-Syrian relations, what primarily concerns us in Syria and Lebanon is to achieve national accord in fraternal Lebanon and enable it to ride out the war crisis and move to peace and construction. The brotherhood and cooperation treaty signed between the two countries is the one that governs relations between them.

[Qabalan] The al-Ta'if conference, hosted by the Saudi Kingdom, laid the basis for Lebanese national accord. Can you shed some light on this conference and its implementation, if there is any?

[Khaddam] No doubt, the al-Ta'if conference was an important stage in the Lebanese crisis. This conference produced the National Charter that was ratified by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in October 1989. Later, certain political reforms of a constitutional nature were also approved. Two presidents were elected and four governments were formed. The state regained its authority and decisionmaking on most of the Lebanese territory except the land occupied by the Israeli enemy. Then the parliamentary elections were held. All these things took place under the canopy of the National Accord Charter.

[Qabalan] Let us move from the Lebanese file to Syrian-Gulf relations. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian relations with the Gulf countries and with Saudi Arabia in particular have become stronger. Coordination between you and the Gulf states has become greater. How do you explain the strengthening of these ties?

[Khaddam] The truth is that since President Hafiz al-Asad took over the leadership of the country in 1970, Syria has considered Arab solidarity a basic principle of Syrian policy. Within this framework, we have worked to improve relations between us and all Arab countries. Undoubtedly, these relations were strengthened with the Gulf countries for numerous reasons that we cannot get into now. These relations passed two stations: the first Gulf war and the second Gulf war.

During the first Gulf war, the Syrian stance greatly contributed toward containing the war between Iran and Iraq and limiting its spread in the Gulf region, despite our tolerating great pressures and being subjected to many attacks at the time. After 10 years, it became clear that our stance was right. We took a position against turning this war into one between Arabs and Iranians. We also contributed toward not expanding or spreading it.

At the second station—the second Gulf war—we stood alongside the brothers in the Gulf. We stood against the Iraqi Government's invasion of Kuwait. We contributed a great deal toward the operation to end this occupation, whether through our stand in the Arab and international arenas or through our military contribution.

Naturally, such stations constitute a good incentive for strengthening confidence and cooperation among our countries. We believe that such relations, based on each of us understanding the others' problems and interests and on

cooperation with each other, are in everyone's interest, be they Gulf countries, Syria, Egypt, or the other Arab countries.

[Qabalan] How do you view Gulf security and how important is this security for Syria?

[Khaddam] Since the beginning, we contributed by recognizing relations with these countries. We cooperated with them. We are aware of the sensitivities in this region and the importance of stability in it. So the sensitive situation in the region reflects positively or negatively not only on Syria, but on the whole Arab nation. We have seen the great pain and harm that have afflicted the Arab nation because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We also saw the woes it brought the region and the gains it gave Israel.

We are concerned about our brothers' security. As they know, we want to and are ready to extend a helping hand to them whenever they want and whenever they believe this cooperation is necessary for them.

[Qabalan] You talked about the importance of Gulf security to Syria and about attempts to consolidate this security. How do you assess the Saudi role in the Gulf and how can this role, in cooperation with Syrian efforts, strengthen security in the Gulf region?

[Khaddam] The Saudi Kingdom is a major state in the Arabian Peninsula and in the Arrab world. It is natural to establish cooperation with Saudi Arabia, as well as all the brothers in the Gulf region. This will serve all our interests and will fend off all harm and threats targeted against the Arab nation.

[Qabalan] How do you assess Syrian-Iranian relations?

[Khaddam] They are good and deep-rooted relations. They are based on confidence and cooperation. We believe these relations have served Syria, Iran, and the Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf region.

[Qabalan] How did these relations serve the Arab countries?

[Khaddam] As I said, Syrian-Iranian relations are relations of confidence between Damascus and Tehran. These relations have played a major role in preventing the expansion of the Gulf war to countries other than Iraq and Iran. The understanding and cooperation between the two countries contributed toward analyzing the situation after the Iraqi Government's invasion of Kuwait. The analysis of the nature of relations and confidence and our common analysis of this crisis enabled us to adopt a joint stance against the Iraqi invasion. I believe this stance is very great.

Who could imagine another stance by Iran? Had Iran supported Iraq, the situation would have been more complicated. These relations have served Iran and Syria and the Arab countries.

[Qabalan] You have talked about the distinguished relations with Iran and we recently heard about Syrian mediation efforts to resolve the crisis between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. How far has this mediation gone?

[Khaddam] We carried out mediation efforts between our brothers in the UAE and our friends in Iran. We made it so that accord and amity prevail in the Gulf region. Realizing the dangers inherent in enmity resuming and its negative repercussions for the Arabs, Iran, and the entire region, we contacted the two sides. We sensed their serious response to work out a solution to the existing problems within the framework of peaceful negotiations as well as within the context of the spirit of amity between the two countries. We hope that through the continuing contacts between the two sides, they will close this file.

[Qabalan] Thank you, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

[Khaddam] Thank you. I wish you success.

Commentary Views Christopher Tour, U.S. Ties

JN1102174493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The visit to the region, which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make, represents the first direct contact between the Arab countries to be included in the tour and the new U.S. Administration. This tour may have many results that will determine the course of Arab relations with this administration over the next four years.

The peace process and the resumption of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel represent the priority topic on Christopher's agenda during his tour. This process is the focus of attention for the Arab parties due to the hopes the Arabs pin on this process for a realization of a just peace and the entrenchment of security and peace in the region.

It is not new to say that the United States, which contributed to the launching of this process during the former Bush administration, plays a basic role in this peace process—a role described by Washington as a driving force. From the very beginning, Washington was aware that in order to play such a role it should maintain two basic elements, which are neutrality and honesty in order to win the confidence of the Arab parties concerned with the peace talks. Undoubtedly, these two elements have been, and remain, Arab demands or hopes due to the known historical U.S. bias to Israel.

All Arab parties have responded to the U.S. efforts aimed at starting the peace process and maintaining its momentum though the talks, after eight rounds during the rule of two Israeli Prime Ministers Shamir and Rabin have not had any results. Now, the Arabs are emphasizing their desire to render the expected tour of the U.S. secretary successful out of their certain and serious concern for peace. The Arab parties believe that Christopher's success in paving the way for resumption of peace talks will demonstrate an Arab wish and represents a setback for the Israeli efforts aimed at placing all kinds of obstacles to prevent real progress in the peace process.

The first principle for Christopher's success in his tour is ending the obstacle which Israel recently set up to peace talks, namely the deportation of the 400 Palestinians. This obstacle will not be removed, as some in Washington or Israel believe, by overstepping the obstacle or by as along the lines of the Israeli-U.S. deal. This issue will not be solved until the Arab demand to repatriate all the deportees is met. This is a significant point before the talks can resume.

Reports have recently said that Christopher is trying to prepare for the success of his tour by asking Israel to launch so-called positive initiatives, either toward the deportees or by releasing a group of Palestinian detainees. Though this demand will not affect the firmness of the Arab position on the return of all deportees, Israel has even rejected such formal initiatives. On the other hand, instead of easing the repression in the occupied Arab territories, Rabin has escalated the repressive practices there. Hardly a single day passes without a huge number of Palestinians being killed or injured in the occupied territories. This emphasizes that the policy of appeasing Israel always encourages it to be more intransigent. This is what we felt after the U.S.- Israeli deal on the deportees. We do not need formal initiatives to ease the climate and feelings during Christopher's tour, followed directly by the Israeli climates of repression, killing, and displacement against the Palestinian people.

If the U.S. Administration took on responsibility for overstepping Resolution 799, which calls for the return of all the deportees to their homeland, in order to avoid forcing Israel to comply with an international resolution, then why does this administration not try to remove the deportees issue from the road leading to the resumption of the peace talks through a U.S. decision or pressure to ensure the return of all deportees without any delay? If this administration does not consider employing such pressure on Israel, or if it has ideas about a radically different direction, which is confronting the Arabs by one of two options, either accepting the resumption of the talks without reaching a final solution to the deportees issue or shouldering the responsibility for failing to resume the talks, then a huge question mark will face the result of Christopher's forthcoming tour.

Finally, we emphasize again that the Arab parties attach importance to the visit of the U.S. secretary of state as much as they pin hopes on a just peace that may result from the peace process and the peace talks. The desire of these Arab parties that Christopher be successful in his first tour of Arab countries during the present administration is parallel to their desire that this tour establish a strong and sound relationship between the Arabs and this administration. Undoubtedly, any relationship cannot be one-sided, or the result of the desires of one party. We are waiting for what the other party will say concerning this relationship.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Figures Hold Talks With Rabbani, Mas'ud

LD1102180193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The official authorities in Kabul today confirmed that those personalities who have come to Kabul from Pakistan including General Hamid Gul and Ihjaz ul-Haq met yesterday and last night with esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and with Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the Islamic State. In the meetings the sides stated their points of views and held discussions on topics of mutual interest.

The aforementioned personalities also met in Kabul with esteemed Ostad 'Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Islamic Union [Ettehad-e Eslami] and with esteemed Shaykh Mohammad 'Asef Mohseni, leader of the Islamic Movement [Harakat-e Eslami] of Afghanistan.

An authoritive source in the Islamic State said that the Islamic State of Afghanistan appreciates and welcomes the efforts by all the countries specially the neighboring countries to ensure a permanent peace. However it emphasizes the fact that all Golboddin's rocket systems and heavy weapons which are around Kabul should be handed over to the Defense Ministry or to a committee proposed by the government.

According to another report these personalities left today to meet the other side.

Defense Ministry Operations Against Mazari Faction

LD1102175193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Statement by the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As our dear compatriots, and in particular dear Kabul citizens, are aware, the popular great meeting of the Resolution and Solution Council had not concluded its meetings when savage missile attacks on Kabul and the murder of innocent Kabul citizens resumed in continuation of previous savage actions. Along with this, an adventurist, irresponsible plan and attacks by the rebels of the Mazari faction of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami began, and in order to render good service to Golboddin [Hekmatyar], they embarked upon shedding the blood of thousands of poor people and destroying state buildings.

Following the peaceful policy of the Islamic state, the Defense Ministry made great efforts in order to avoid transforming the residential areas of the Hazara brothers into a battlefield and to prevent their pure emotions from being abused by the dark section of Mazari to serve the unlawful aims of Golboddin and his warmongering partners. Despite the peaceful stand of the Islamic state and talks that were held with Hezb-e Wahdat adventurists, Mazari and his irresponsible supporters transformed Hazara residential areas into a field for battles by rebels against the Islamic state. It sacrificed the pure blood for the ambitious goals of Golboddin.

In continuation of previous crimes and warmongering, last night the corrupt group of Mazari began its planned attacks in some areas. The Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan had to engage in limited mopping-up operations in order to prevent Hazara residential areas from becoming engulfed in the fire of war.

In continuation of the program of cleansing Kabul from centers of destruction and warmongering, the Defense Ministry has purged a large number of seditious and warmongering centers. It should be stated that this measure by the Defense Ministry was a limited action against a number of rebels in Hezb-e Wahdat headed by Mazari, and not against the Hazara brothers. The Defense Ministry considers Hazara brothers to be its own, and it will not take any action against them. We thank the Hazara brothers, in particular the mojahedin and a large number of jehadi commanders of Hazara nationality, who have cooperated with the Defense Ministry in the mopping up operations.

Most of the firing positions of the opportunist Mazari elements in Hezb-e Wahdat, from where they launched heavy weapons and missile attacks against residential areas and public establishments in the city in cooperation with the rebellious group of Golboddin, were today purged and destroyed by forces of the Islamic State.

A responsible Defense Ministry source told a BIA correspondent that in order to prevent and foil the launching of missiles, high positions of the enemy from where they fired missiles on residential areas in the 2d, 4th, and 11th wards of Kabul were destroyed. During the mopping-up operations that began at Bagh-e Bala and continued west, the Ziarat post, the Pol-e Technical College, the Academy of Social Sciences, the Police Academy, a 200-bed police hospital, and the security educational center in Afshar were completely cleansed of the Mazari faction. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy, a number of whom were captured as the enemy retreated.

In the course of these mopping up operations, one tank, two 76-mm guns, one (?Zk-1) unit, and a number of mortar units were seized along with a large amount of ammunition.

A spokesman for the Defense Ministry said that this operation was limited and was directed only against the Mazari faction.

Renewed Clashes in Kabul; 12 Civilians Killed

LD1102210893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] After 36 hours of relative calm in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, heavy clashes resumed between the warring factions today. The AFGHAN ISLAMIC NEWS

AGENCY reported this news, adding: Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] forces launched an extensive attack against the positions of government forces in western Kabul. According to this report, the Unity Party and government forces exchanged heavy artillery and rocket fire. At least 12 civilians have been killed in the cross-fire up to this evening.

Over 300 Islamic Party Combatants Killed in Three Days

LD1102214093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian

[Text] Over 300 fighters of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] forces were killed by the government forces of Afghanistan during the clashes around Kabul in the past three days.

Rabbani Congratulates Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1102200593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] A congratulatory message from Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Iranian revolution. The text is as follows:

Esteemed brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, peace and God's blessing be upon you. I have the pleasure, on behalf of the people and Islamic State of Afghanistan, and on my own behalf, to convey the most sincere congratulations to you dear brother and to the Muslim and brotherly people of Iran on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran. I completely believe that the existing fraternal and friendly relations between the states and peoples of the two neighborly countries which have common religious, linguistic, and cultural roots, should expand further in the interests of the peoples of both countries and peace and stability in the region and the world.

Another message on the occasion was sent by esteemed Sayd Salman Gaylani, the minister of foreign affairs, to Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Funeral Held for Assassinated Paktia Governor

LD1102203493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The funeral of martyred Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur, ex-deputy leader of the Islamic Revolution Movement [Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami] and governor of Paktia Province, was held and he was laid to rest yesterday afternoon in Zormat district in that province.

A correspondent of the military section of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the funeral and the burial ceremonies of late Mawlawi Mansur was attended by esteemed al-Haj Mohammad Sadiq Chakari, minister of information and culture; esteemed Mawlawi Arsalah Rahmani, minister of endowment and Islamic guidance; esteemed Mohammad Yunos Qanoni, head of army political affairs; esteemed Haji Mohammad Gul, deputy defense minister; esteemed Baz Mohammad Zormati and esteemed Haji Dowran, deputies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; deputies of the Islamic Revolution Movement; officials and leaders of Paktia Provinces and Zormat district; ulema, religious leaders, elders, and commanders from various jihadi formations; as well as thousands of people of Zormat district and families and friends of the late Mawlawi Mansur. [passage omitted]

According to another report elders, ulema, and commanders of various jihadi formations of Paktia and Paktika Provinces issued separate resolutions and expressed their support for the Islamic State and for the unity and solidarity of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. They proposed that the commander of Paktia Garrison should be elected as an elected deputy from Zormat district to the Jihadi Council of Paktia Province instead of late Esteemed Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur. Also it was proposed that Mawlawi Arsalah Ramani should be appointed as a deputy to the Islamic Revolution Movement replacing the late Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur.

Mas'ud Said Transferring Heavy Weapons

LD1102133793 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Afghan Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud is transferring heavy weapons to Panjsher from Kolola Poshta. Quoting an intelligence source of Hezb-e Eslami, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that Mas'ud intends to transfer all heavy weapons in Kolola Poshta areas [words indistinct] to other provinces. The report says that the reason for Mas'ud taking this measure may be that he has realized his defeat in the war and sees his future in Kabul as bleak.

It is worth mentioning that Mas'ud and his partners attempted some time ago to transfer looted money inside coffins. However, this plan was foiled at Kabul airport.

Another report states that light weapons have been distributed to Panjsheri residents in Kolola Poshta so that they will be able, in case of the start of probable clashes, to rescue themselves.

Bangladesh

Ershad Associate Detained With Letter for Saudi King

BK1102131693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 11 (AFP)—A close associate of Bangladesh's deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad

was detained by Dhaka airport security with a letter for Saudi King Fahd, the NEW NATION newspaper said Thursday.

The letter, urged the king to intervene on Ershad's behalf, was found in the baggage of Nurul Islam Majumder who was about to board a flight to Jeddah late Wednesday along with acting Jatiya Party (JP) chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, MP, the newspaper said.

Chowdhury and another party man were allowed to fly to Jeddah enroute to Mecca, the NEW NATION said, adding that Majumder was being questioned by police.

The newspaper, quoting unidentified JP sources, said similar letters were earlier smuggled out from the Dhaka's high-security Central Jail, where Ershad was being held, and sent to the king.

Police or JP officials could not be reached immediately for comment.

Ershad, 63, Bangladesh's longest serving head of state and an MP now, seized power in a 1982 military coup and was forced out in mass uprising against his nine-year rule in 1990.

The former army general, who maintained close ties with the Gulf states, is now serving a 13-year jail term for graft and possession of illegal weapons, besides facing several more graft charges.

Naval Patrol Introduced To Protect Fisheries Resources

BK1002143593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The minister for fisheries and livestock, Abdullah Al-Noman, told Parliament today that naval patrol has been intensified in the territorial waters for protecting the fisheries resources of the country. He said this is the first time that naval patrol has been introduced in addition to police patrol. The minister said at present there are 83 private sector fish fry production centers in the country. These centers earned about 82 lakh rupees during the last two years. He further disclosed that during the current fiscal year livestock worth 89 lakh taka have been imported from Pakistan. The state minister for irrigation, Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, told Parliament that necessary measures have been taken to protect Nawabganj District from erosion caused by the River Padma. He further said that the government has taken up a scheme for the construction of 380 sluice gates in 35 districts of the country at the cost of over 132 crore taka during the current fiscal year. State Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Haque informed Parliament that at present the total number of prisoners in the country is 2,775. The state minister for establishment, Nurul Huda, told the House that an amount of five crore taka was spent last year for the maintenance of 925 government vehicles.

Senior Diplomats Fired for 'Public Interest'

BK1202050493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0456 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 12 (AFP)—The Bangladesh government has sacked its ambassador to Italy and a senior career diplomat now at the foreign ministry, the weekly Holiday newspaper reported Friday.

It said Waliur Rahman, who was scheduled to end his two-term in Rome soon, and Director General Mohiuddin Ahmed were given "forced retirement" on grounds of "public interest."

Foreign ministry officials were not available for comment Friday, the Moslem sabbath, but Holiday quoted unidentified sources as saying that "the decision was taken at the highest level."

India

Rao Rules Out Mid-Term Polls

BK1102161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out holding of a mid-term poll in the country. Mr. Narasimha Rao said that his government will complete the five-year term. Addressing a series of public meetings in four different places in Tripura today, he said that the Center will do everything possible to help the state in its economic development. Before leaving for Delhi this afternoon, the prime minister told newsmen at Agartala Airport that the doors for discussion with any terrorist organization within the framework of the Constitution remain open and asserted that the Government will not tolerate any form of terrorism.

Parties React to Government Ban on Delhi Rally

BK1202044093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Several political parties have welcomed the decision of the center to ban the proposed BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rally on the 25th of this month. Congress-I has supported the decision to ban the rally in the capital. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newspersons in New Delhi that with the experience of Ayodhya, it is difficult to accept the assurances of the BJP that the proposed rally would be peaceful and the party would be able to control militant elements among them. He hoped that the BJP will cancel the rally in the interest of law and order and maintaining communal harmony. The BJP vice president, K.R. Malkani, termed the government action as arbitrary. He told a news conference in New Delhi last evening that the BJP will go ahead with the program.

The Samajwadi Janata Party leader, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, has justified the center's decision not to permit the rally. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow yesterday, he however opposed a total ban on rallies of all political

parties. Mr. Malaviya appealed to the BJP to avoid the path of confrontation and cooperate in maintaining communal harmony and peace.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] in its reaction to the government's decision has said that this is not the only solution to meet the challenge to the constitution, rule of law and the unity of the country. In a statement in New Delhi yesterday, the party politburo said that the BJP is bent upon spreading the poison of communalism and urged the secular forces to join together to isolate the communal forces.

The Janata Party has welcomed the government's decision to ban the rally. The party president, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy, said in a statement in New Delhi that the rally had been permitted communal poison would have caused loss to the nation. [sentence as heard].

The West Bengal unit of the Forward Bloc has criticized the ban on the proposed BJP rally. The general secretary of the state unit of the party, Mr. Ashok Ghosh, said in Calcutta that communal forces cannot be tackled through authoritarian attitude.

It may be recalled that the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, announced yesterday the center's decision not to give permission to the proposed BJP rally at the Boat Club in the capital on 25th of this month. In a statement, he dealt with the situation which led the government to take the decision. He said in a normal situation the holding of a public rally is a legitimate democratic activity. But the demands being put forward by the BJP in support of their rally are inherently dangerous as tension generated between communities have not fully subsided at present. He regretted that the BJP had not given a positive response to the request to reconsider its plan and said it is not the time for provocative action. Later, in a chat with newsmen, Mr. Chavan said similar rallies by other parties would also not be permitted for the next few months.

BJP 'Will Go Ahead' With Rally

BK1202124693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata party] says it will go ahead with its plan to hold a rally in the capital on the 25th of this month. Talking to newspersons, the party president, Mr. M.M. Joshi, said the decision has been taken by the party National Executive in its emergency meeting in New Delhi today. Describing the ban on the rally as anti-democratic, Mr. Joshi alleged that the Center is adopting a path of confrontation.

Pakistan Accused of Attacks on Hindu Temples in Kashmir

BK1202111093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Feb 93 p 10

[Text] New Delhi—The J&K [Jammu and Kashmir] administration has in a report to the entre listed 52 temples razed to the ground in Kashmir valley after December 6, according to Mr L. Khurana, a national secretry of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

The report, according to him, also listed 280 houses of Hindu migrants from Kashmir burnt or destroyed and 93 cow cheds demolished in the valley. The report said that properties worth several crores of rupees had been damaged by militants during last two months.

Mr. Khurana released to the press on Friday photocopies of a letter he wrote to the Prime Minister alongwith a list of temples destroyed, number and dates FIRs [First Information Report] registered in various police stations. The BJP leader said these FIRs were lodged by the army, the BSF [Border Security Force] and the J&K police.

Although the Centre was in the know of these horrible happenngs, the BJP leader said, the Prime Minister did not care to inform the world about this and the role of Pakistan. " A golden opportunity to put Pakistan in the dock has thus been lost", Mr Khurana observed, adding that the state administration had told the Centre that Pakistan appeared to have engineered these attacks on Hindu temples in the valley.

Mr Khurana asked the Prime Minister to include the desecration and demolition of temples in the Kashmir valley in the proposed white paper on Ayodhya.

He castigated the Prime Minister for carrying on a "vicious" campaign about the demolition of the Babri structure.- This campaign of vilification had brought a bad name to the country and projected the Hindus as fundamentalists. Regretting that the Centre did not even condemn the demolition of temples in the valley, Mr Khurana said the "double standards" of the government had created a reaction among the Hindus."

Demanding a CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] enquiry into the demolition of these temples and the role of Pakistan in these shameful incidents, Mr Khurana urged the Prime Minister to incorporate the report of the enquiry in the proposed white paper on Ayodhya so that the nation and the world could know the reality.

The list of temples destroyed in the wake of Ayodhya happenings, supplied by the state administration to the Centre, include 31 temples in Anantnag district. These are: Gauri Shanker temple at Pehalgam, two Shivji Temples at Anantnag, three temples at Damhalhonjipora, eight temples in Kulgam police station, two temples in Achasal, six temples under Dooru police station two temples under Achasal police stations, one in Dooru, two temples in Kulgram, one temple in Achasal, two temples in Kulgram police station and one temple at Hanjipola.

Mr Khurana sent to the Prime Minister a detailed list of these temples alongwith photocopies of FIR registered at various police stations.

Foreign Minister, Kuwaiti Counterpart Issue Statement

BK1102154893 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1506 GMT 11 Feb 93

["Joint Statement" dated 11 February]

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy premier and minister of foreign affairs of the State of Kuwait paid an official and friendly two day visit to India beginning February 10, 1993. He was accompanied by a high level delegation. During visit Kuwaiti dignitary called on president to deliver a letter from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah amir of Kuwait. He also met speaker of Lok Sabha. He held extensive discussions with Dinesh Singh, minister of external affairs.

Deputy premier and foreign minister of Kuwait expressed the gratitude of the government and the people of Kuwait for principled support extended by India as member of Security Council. He sought India's continued support in implementation of relevant UN resolutions for ensuring peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Both sides agreed that observance of UN Security Council resolutions was the best way to ensure peace in the Gulf region.

The Kuwaiti side expressed hope that India and Pakistan would be able to resolve all their differences, including those on Kashmir by peaceful means on basis of the Simla Agreement.

Two sides expressed satisfaction at steady growth in bilateral relations in last two years. In 1991-92 bilateral trade stood at over Rs [rupees] 950 crores. Over 110,000 Indian nationals have returned to Kuwait. After on-going liberalisation in India there were encouraging prospects for Kuwaiti investment and joint ventures in India. The two sides decided to expedite despatch of a multi-disciplinary team from Kuwait to India to study the possibility of bilateral cooperation. The Indian side proposed to hold the first session of joint commission established last year. The Kuwait side accepted the proposal and agreed to hold a session at an early date.

H.E. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah extended an invitation to H.E. Dinesh Singh to pay an official visit to Kuwait. The invitation was accepted. Dates for the visit will be finalised through diplomatic channels.

President of India extended an invitation to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of kuwait to visit India.

Southern State Assured Hindi Not To Be Imposed

BK1102163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The special emissary of the Congress-I president, Mr. Motilal Vora, has said that the alliance between the Congress-I and the AIADMK [All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] will continue. He told our Madras correspondent that the alliance is based on ideological common ground and cannot be broken. Mr. Vora recalled that during his visit to Madras last month, Mr. Narasimha Rao had categorically said that the alliance will continue. Mr. Vora also said that minor differences between the two parties will be sorted out through discussions in a congenial atmosphere. Mr. Motilal Vora along with other emissary and the minister of state for welfare, Mr. K.V. Thanga Balu, met several party leaders, including Mr. G.K. Moopanar. The emissaries are planning to meet the AIADMK general secretary and the state chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, tomorrow.

The Tamil Nadu Congress-I president, Mr. K. Ramamurthy, has said that the announcement by six ministers of the Jayalalitha government about the snapping of AIADMK and Congress-I alliance cannot be taken seriously unless it comes from the party general secretary, Miss Jayalalitha. Talking to newsmen at Tirichurappalli today, he said it is unfortunate that the AIADMK has created a wrong impression that the Congress-I is for imposition of Hindi in the state.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has reiterated that the Center stands by the assurance given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the language issue. Mr. Chavan was intervening in a discussion of the subcommittee of the Interstate Council which met in New Delhi today. The meeting also discussed the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations on several subjects including financial relations between the center and the state and the interstate river water disputes. The home minister presided over the meeting which was attended among others by the union ministers for finance, welfare, ministers of state for law, justice and company affairs and chief ministers of Bihar, Gujarat, Orissa, and Punjab.

Tapes Point To Police 'Bias' in Hindu-Muslim Riots

BK1202013893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0111 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By M.N. Sunil]

[Text] BOMBAY, Feb 12 (AFP)—The police control room receives a call from a patrol car saying a mob has gathered outside a south Bombay garage and is threatening to set it on fire.

"Must be a Muslim's garage. Let it burn," comes the response.

The exchange was one of a number of conversations between police officers taped during Hindu-Muslim clashes in Bombay last month backing up charges that members of the Hindu-dominated police force showed bias against Muslims.

Bombay police have begun an inquiry to determine the identities of officers who made abusive, anti-Muslim statements over the two-way radio network, but few expect much to emerge from the investigation.

The tapes were sealed by the Bombay High Court on February 2, but recordings made by concerned private citizens with access to police-band radios have been widely circulated.

Nearly 700 people, mostly Muslims, died January 5-17 in communal violence of an unprecedented ferocity in India's commercial capital.

In one exchange, police report to the control room that two army trucks accompanied by a retired Muslim officer have arrived in the south Bombay Muslim neighborhood of Dongri to distribute milk and food.

The following is an excerpt from the conversation, with expletives deleted:

Dongri 1 to control: "Two military trucks have come carrying milk and other rations. They are led by Major Syed Rahamtullah. He is retired. A crowd has gathered at Ir Road near Bhendi Bazaar. Please send some more men."

Control: "Why the f— are you distributing milk to those Muslims. Muslim bastards live over there."

Dongri 1 (agitated): "There are lots of police here. Let them distribute milk."

Control: "Why are you distributing milk to them? Are you doing them a favour or what?"

Dongri 1 (a little later): "The people gathered to collect milk and rations have dispersed now."

Control (another voice): "Who has milk been distributed to? ... Do not distribute milk to Muslims. Have you understood?"

Control later tells police at the scene to seize the military vehicles.

In another exchange, a police unit at V.P. Road reports that a crowd of Hindus has gathered outside a garage in a south Bombay neighborhood.

V.P. Road to control: "A mob has gathered outside Maharashtra Garage, Lamington Road, with the intention of setting it on fire. Send men."

Control: "Must be a Muslim's garage. Let it burn. If it belongs to a Maharashtrian, don't burn anything. But burn everything belonging to a Muslim bastard."

Maharashtrians are natives of Maharasthra state. Bombay is its capital, as well as India's business and financial capital.

In another exchange, crude slurs are made against the mother of a former additional police commissioner of Bombay, A.A. Khan, a Muslim.

Bombay's newly appointed police chief A.S. Samra told AFP he had not yet heard the tapes. "But I understand they were talking nonsense," he said.

The police chief said it was difficult to "locate these mischief mongers, but very stringent action will be taken once they are known."

He said he did not believe the tapes pointed to widespread anti-Muslim prejudice in the force but rather to a lack of professionalism.

The exchanges between the control room and field units, which are taped routinely and erased after 10 to 15 days, were ordered sealed by the court following a petition by the Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights.

P.A. Sebastian, the general secretary of the Committee, said the tapes show clear violations of the constitution, which guarantees equality before the law.

He said many police officers were sympathetic to the Shiv Sena, a Bombay-based Hindu militant group blamed for much of the violence.

"They have imbibed the same biases, prejudices," he said.

"The tapes indisputably prove the allegations (of bias)," added former Bombay municipal commissioner S.S. Tinaiker.

Tinaiker said that as commissioner, he sought to demolish illegal Shiv Sena offices, "but the police protection was just not available."

The Shiv Sena chief, Bal Thackery, dismissed the charges of bias. "I have a set (of tapes) with me and these show that the police had orders not to open [word indistinct] even when Muslims were firing at them from mosques," he said.

Daily Interviews New Atomic Energy Commission Chief

BK1202031593 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 93 p 12

[By Rajendra Prabhu]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 1—Dr Rajagopala Chidambaram who took over as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission today, would concentrate on the development of the advanced heavy water reactor using different fuels like plutonium, uranium and thorium simultaneously while pushing ahead with the nuclear power programme, but would also seek to extend the other beneficial uses of nuclear energy like radioisotopes in medicine and agriculture.

Stating this in a telephonic interview from Bombay to this correspondent, Dr Chidambaram, 56, spoke about his plans to transfer more technologies that were developed at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre [BARC] of which he has been the Director, to industry. BARC and the Nuclear Power Corporation between themselves have a wide range of technologies needed for setting up and running the power reactors.

These include high pressure and high temperature pumps, welds of very narrow tolerance, seamless tubes, costly metals and alloys of non-ferrous origin like zirconium and hafnium, high temperature and pressure aluminium alloy tubings, liquid sodium technology and technologies for

seals, valves, forgings and structurals, very sensitive sectors, non-destructive tests, etc., of a very high degree of accuracy and performance. Newer materials and technologies are ready for transfer.

Dr Chidambaram feels that the BARC, which has contributed to improving quality consciousness in the Indian industry since 1970 through interaction with it, should be involved much more in developing high technologies which are spin offs from BARC's own research. BARC's involvement would be intensified even as it pushes ahead with the frontier areas of science. BARC's first rate multidisciplinary teams would be involved in technology development for industry.

Like many of his illustrious predecessors, Dr Chidambaram is a product of Indian environment and institutions and steeped in the belief that "there is nothing we cannot do". "I have no foreign degree" he proudly declared. He is a product of Madras University and Indian Institute of Science—in both he came out with distinction.

At BARC his work extended from high pressure dynamics to phase transition in metals and alloys and computer simulation of underground explosions. He also initiated the research in neutron crystallography in which this institution now ranks with the best in the world. Lately, he had also initiated work on software to study structures of large molecules. Now BARC has the facility to simulate and study construction of large molecules with up to 100,000 atoms.

Says a colleague of Dr Chidambaram: "He is adept at selection of problems and providing a novelty of approach in solving them". At BARC he was involved with the Pokhran test of a peaceful nuclear explosion as member of the team led by Dr Ramanna and Dr P.K. Iyengar.

Attracted to science early in life by the example of Dr C.V. Raman and Dr. S. Chandrasekhar (the astrophysicist), Dr Chidambaram took up physics and specialised in nuclear physics which was the frontier area in the '50s. Now his two daughters have also taken to science, one in medicine and the other in chemical engineering. "Earlier our family had no scientist", he says.

The science teaching facilities in India are quite good, he thinks and finds it quite unnecessary to go to foreign countries for learning the same things. "We may go there temporarily to acquire some latest developments but generally we can build here what we lack. Indian natural talent is one of the best in the world", Dr Chidambaram emphasises underlining that he would pursue the unrelenting self-reliance in nuclear technology that has been the hallmark of the team set up by Dr Homi Bhabha.

Manipur Government Willing To Talk With Extremists

BK1202091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The Manipur chief minister has reaffirmed his government's willingness to have talks with extremist groups within the framework of the constitution without any precondition. Talking to newsmen in Agartala this morning, Mr. Dorendra Singh, said some of the groups have responded favorably. Referring to drug trafficking in Manipur, the chief minister said the encouragement is from across the border. The state chief minister requested the center to strengthen the border with Burma by increasing the BSF [Border Security Force] personnel there. Mr. Dorendra Singh appealed to the center to provide adequate forces to combat terrorist activities in the state. Meanwhile, the state police today recovered a time-bomb in the same area in Imphal where a powerful explosion took place yesterday killing four persons. Our Imphal correspondent reports that the bomb was detected by the police and defused. Police have launched an intensive search in the area to find out whether any more explosives are there.

Tactical Naval Exercises Begin With Singapore

BK1102004193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The naval ships of India and Singapore have commenced the four-day tactical joint naval exercises off Port Blair. Two ships from each of the navies are participating in the exercises. The exercises include weapon firings, screening, maneuvering, and replenishment at sea. According to an official release in New Delhi today, opportunity will also be taken during these exercises for social and cultural interaction between the two countries. This is the first time that Indian naval ships are carrying out joint exercises with an ASEAN country.

Government Denies Islamic Mission Visit to Kashmir

BK1102162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] India has turned down a request by the Organization of Islamic Conference to send a fact-finding team to the Kashmir valley. This was disclosed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, while responding to a question at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of members of Parliament attached to his ministry. The meeting discussed the impact of the Ayodhya development on the foreign policy projection, SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperatin] and the G-15 issues.

Election Commission Postpones Elections in Tripura

BK1202091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The Election Commission today issued an order postponing the date of polls to the Tripura Assembly from the 15th of this month to the third of April. In a fax message to the chief secretary of Tripura, the Commission requested that all the central observers should be withdrawn from the state and to ensure their safe passage. The Election Commission spokesman told our corresondent in

New Delhi a short while ago that the postponement became necessary as the state was not prepared for a peaceful, fair and free poll.

Minister Says 90 Percent of ULFA Activists Surrender

BK1102163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia, has ruled out further division of the state. Talking to newsmen at Agartala aiport, Mr. Saikia said that Bodos are demanding a compact area consisting of over 4,600 villages of which 1,035 villages are not inhabited by tribals. He said the government can at best give maximum autonomy to the Bodos. Referring to ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activity, he said 90 percent of the ULFA activists have surrendered and the rest are outside the state.

Iran

Foreign Minister on Result of Tripartite Talks

LD1102173193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent at Tehran airport on 11 February—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, can you tell us about conclusions reached during your negotiations? What agreements did you reach?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you are aware, this was the third session between Iran, Syria, and Turkey during the past year and a half. Based on an original agreement—the principles of which were formulated on the fringes of the foreign ministerial session of Islamic countries in Istanbul—we came to the conclusion that in order to safeguard the security of the region, a region in which Turkey, Iran, and Syria are present, regular consultations need to be held. This gradually led to its present form, which is now called the tripartite foreign ministerial session which meets in turn in the capital cities of these three countries. The first session was in Istanbul, the second in Ankara, the third in Damascus, and the fourth session will be in Tehran, God willing.

As I have said, the main topics of discussion were talks on safeguarding the security of the region by the countries of the region. The important issue is this: the countries of each region of the world should think about the security of their region themselves. We believe the same policy that we have regarding the Persian Gulf applies to the northern, northwestern, and western regions of our country; in other words, all the regions of our country. Moreover, this is one of the principles of our foreign policy regarding any corner of the world.

We reached a number of agreements, and these were released in Damascus as a statement. We stressed the territorial integrity of Iraq while respecting the rights of the Iraqi people, and emphasized noninterference in the internal affairs of Iraq. But with regard to the security of the region and the national security of each of these three countries, we consulted each other and reached certain decisions. Any act that leads to the disintegration of Iraq must be prevented. Under those circumstances a situation would arise that would not benefit anyone in this region.

Commentary on North Iraqi Situation

LD1102212393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey yesterday concluded their one-day session in Damascus by issuing a statement.

The tripartite Damascus session, convened for surveying the north-Iraqi situation, in fact was the second official meeting of the ministers from these three countries since the declaration of a local Kurdish government in north Iraq.

The talks of this session, in which the three foreign ministers reached a consensus, were focused on the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity. The participants also stressed the national unity of that country.

In this regard Turkish Foreign Minister, Hikmet Cetin, noted: Formation of an independent Kurdish populated state in north Iraq would create a new problem for the region. While expressing opposition to the disintegration of Iraq, he assessed that country's continued integrity as an important factor for the preservation of regional and global tranquillity.

One can clearly discern from the comments of the Turkish Foreign Minister that Iraq's territorial integrity is agreed to by the regional states, specially Iran, Turkey and Syria, as the apprehension on any sort of disintegration of Iraq has already caused concern among these countries. In the midst two issues are noteworthy. First, despite the Turkish official's concern, presence of the Poised Hammer forces in Turkey, while moving toward disintegrating Iraq, constitutes a major issue leading to the criticism of Turkey by the regional countries. But at the same time Turkey, through coordinating with the regional states, particularly Iran and Syria, is trying to prevent the separation of the Iraqi Kurdistan as an independent country. This shows an open contradiction and Turkey will have to find a solution to it.

The second noteworthy point relates to the Kurds and the views of Kurdish leaders in Iraq. The official stand of the Iraqi Kurds has always stressed the preservation of that country's territorial integrity. However despite the adoption of this stand by the Kurds, it does not appear that regional states have confidence in it. The reason is that the Kurd's link with the West and the expectations they have of support from the West create this concern that the

Westerners, in the pursuit of their own interest, will resort to any move even if it involves the disintegration of an independent state.

Undoubtedly creation of the two no-fly zones by the West on the pretext of pressuring Saddam and providing security for these two zones too has come solely for the sake of preserving the Western interest. Despite the fact that the UN Security Council has imposed sanctions on the Iraqi regime, the world public opinion duly witnesses that the Iraqi people alone are paying the heavy price of such punitive measures.

In this same connection it appears that a serious measure must be taken for creating a distinction between the Iraqi people and the Baghdad regime in terms of continuation of these punitive measures.

At any rate in consideration of the concluding statement issued by the Damascus session which calls for the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity and lifting of sanctions involving the Iraqi nation, however one obvious point is that in fact the only way for preserving security and stability in the region lies in forging close cooperation among the regional states and also in preventing foreign intervention namely from the side of the West.

Obviously so long as America and its European allies do not seize their intervention in the internal affairs of the regional states, Iraq will continue to be exposed to the danger of disintegration. This is an issue which cannot be ignored on account of the sensitive nature of the region.

Velayati Says Iran Ready To Host Afghan Talks

LD1102214993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Mr 'Abdol Hay, the Afghan president's special envoy, met with Foreign Minister Velayati on Thursday evening. Congratulating him on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, he submitted a written message from President Rabbani of Afghanistan to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He further thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its help to the Muslim people of Afghanistan during the difficult days of the war and submitted a report on the latest political developments in his country. He called for the continuing assistance of Iran to his country.

For his part Mr Velayati stressed that current events in Afghanistan are detrimental to both the people and government of that country and he expressed his sorrow over the current events in there. He said: We will continue to help. If the jehadi groups regard Tehran as a suitable venue to solve their problems, we announce our readiness for this.

Iran Said Ready To Organize International Court

LD1102181593 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—At a reception given in honor of foreign guests on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution here Thursday [11 February], Head of the State Judiciary System Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi compared the legal foundations of various world countries with the canons of Islam and the legal system in Iran.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to establish an international court with the cooperation of other countries of the world to investigate crimes prosecutable worldwide.

The judiciary chief said that in the Islamic penal law the pumishments for certain offences have been established by canons which in legal terminology is called 'hudud' and the punishments for other offences (tazirat) are left at the discretion of the religious judges.

He referred to the legal system of non-Muslim countries as having been based on the mere experience of the human beings.

In the legal system of Islam, said the Ayotollah, the laws and canons are the religion and the excellent example set by Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) [peace be upon him], and added that for the same reason love of ethnic prejudice as well as ignorance in the West has led to criminal perpetrations against Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He addressed himself especially to jurists and law experts saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran has utilized the principles of the humanities and that it also tries to benefit from the views of experts and also from the achievements of the sciences, but that the foundation for all laws are divine revelations.

According to Yazdi the principles would remain the same since the knowledge of the blessed and supreme lord is above all human learning.

The head of the judiciary said world Muslims have witnessed crimes against Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina but that no international court had been set up to investigate those crimes.

In the current world the United Nations Security Council, the Hague Court and the United Nations are not judicial establishments, said the judiciary chief, adding that these bodies issued rulings on the basis of the agreement or consent of the parties to a dispute which differs a lot with the nature and function of judiciary investigation.

Larijani on Foreign Policy, Need for 'Tolerance'

NC1202104193 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 4 Feb 93 p 6

["Text" of an interview with Majles Deputy Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani by an unidentified correspondent on the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [HAMSHAHRI] [passage omitted] Several years after the Islamic revolution victory, how do you assess the revolution? What are its weak and strong points?

[Larijani] As far as the main idea that formed the basis of our thought—Islamic fundamentalism or the revival of

Islam—is concerned, Islamic revival has spread wide in the world, even in countries where we are abused. And this is a source of pride for us. [passage omitted]

During the past 14-15 years our foreign policy has been weak. When I say weak, I do not want to say that our brothers in foreign policy have not worked. I myself undertake some of the responsibility for part of this [weakness].

I think that we have been weak in understanding world incidents. We still have major weaknesses in compiling an effective strategy. Frankly speaking, the chapter on strategy has still not been opened. Our foreign policy progresses in a way that we solve problems as they arise on a daily basis. Our foreign policy has been ad hoc in nature. But I think the era of such methods has ended. In the new conditions of the world today we cannot base foreign policy on the theory of solving problems as they arise. We should always carefully understand incidents as they are. It is necessary to have a strategy. We need a rule that is based on a program. Strategy needs plans that rectify and solve problems. My assessment is that in foreign policy, we have acted weakly. But this criticism is not a denunciation. We should become used to criticism in our system. I sometimes feel that officials are very hurt by the least bit of criticism, but criticism is an extremely natural way to improve things. Our comrades are all competent and devoted people, but criticism may be aimed at the most devoted of people. I believe we have made many major mistakes in our economic system. One of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's major problems has been that he should build a new structure to replace the old. Of course someone like Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with his political expertise and power, hopes he will succeed. God willing, he will.

[HAMSHAHRI] What is your opinion on the situation for civil freedoms?

[Larijani] I believe that as far as tolerance, accepting criticism, and accepting our weaknesses is concerned, we need more practice. This is an extremely important issue. I don't think that in our system all ideas should be granted favorable grounds for growth. I do not believe in liberal democracy. But I am a staunch supporter of tolerance. The idea of tolerance has nothing to do with liberalism. It is an extremely old political idea. This tolerance is very necessary and will help to improve things and reduce problems.

Commentary on U.S.-Iranian Relations

NC1102121193 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
1 Feb 93 p 2

[M. Shahidi commentary: "Iran and America: Understanding or Disagreement?"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton is starting his term in office at a time when Iran continues to be a major problem in U.S. foreign policy. In addition to its geopolitical significance in Middle East policymaking, Iran is important to Bill Clinton because the Democrats were in power when the shah was overthrown and the Islamic Revolution began. Clinton has not forgotten that it was Jimmy Carter's Democratic administration that had to sever relations with Iran after the hostages were taken. Bill Clinton knows his predecessor was to blame. The new U.S. President feels the heavy burden of making amends for that historic disgrace.

Even though foreign policy officials have not yet outlined the major points of the Clinton administration's policy on Iran, Clinton's first remarks after the elections belie the "optimistic expectations" by some circles on the future of U.S.-Iranian relations. Clinton called on Iran "to set aside its extremist slogans and to fall into line with U.S. policies." No perceptible change has been made in U.S. policies on Iran and there are signs that the United States intends to use regional and international pressures to force Iran into line. Issues such as human rights (which is of major interest to Democrats in the United States); the monfeqin [hypocrites—term used to describe the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]; Salman Rushdie; the Iranian arms build-up; support for terrorism; the issue of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs; and, possibly, the balance of power between Iran and Iraq will all be used to put pressures on Iran. Some of these issues were part of the policy during the Republican administrations, but the United States used these isues as tools of overt and covert diplomacy against Iran even before that.

A great deal of advice has been given to the White House on Iran in recent months. The assessments appear to move in two different directions but are, ultimately, moving toward the same end.

Some renowned political figures in the United States have magnified the threat of Iran as a hostile fundamentalist regime. They want to use Iraq as a regional balance of power against Iran. In an interview on national television, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said: "We can assume Iran has embarked on an extensive fundamentalist campaign that none of the big powers are ready to deal with." Kissinger, who is a staunch supporter of the Zionist regime, advises the White House to take the Iranian threat seriously. He suggests safeguarding the regional balance by preserving the Iraqi regime. "Within the next five years," he said, "our major security problem in the Middle East will be Iran...Iran is arming itself. It has a population of 60 million people. It may gain access to weapons of mass distruction including nuclear weapons...Moreover, Iran is trying to spread fundamentalism throughout the Middle East... We need a strong Iraq to balance Iran...." [ellipses as published]

Another group of analysts believes that the Islamic Republic of Iran has displayed significant flexibility in its domestic and foreign policies and that American policymakers should encourage this flexibility. These analysts want Iran "to support its constructive words with deeds." They believe that Iranian words must be backed up with actions if they are to be taken seriously. These analysts warn Iran that "topics such as state terrorism, human rights violations, and weapons of mass destruction cannot be swept under the carpet." Iran's opposition to the Middle East peace talks is another issue that bothers the White House. This group calls on Iran to compare "the benefits it reaps from opposing the Arab-Israeli peace

process with the increased benefits it could reap by returning to the world community." They expect Iran to display realism in its foreign policy and "accept the reality of the superiority of the West". They say "a return to the world community will be in Iran's national interest, but it is contingent upon an improvement in U.S.-Iranian relations."

But these people who defend a rapproachement with the West are naive. Don't they know what America wants? Don't they see that the United States is trying "to dry up the roots of the Islamic Revolution?" Can't they see there is no compromise between the Islamic Republic of Iran and a country that wants to wage a pitiless war against militant Islam and Islamic fundamentalism? Who is backing these people? How can they utter such words then they contradict the views of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran? They have obviously not considered the sensitive posts to which they have been assigned or the political repercussions their statements have among the world's political circles.

The problem may be that the directives of the leader of the revolution, whcih constitute the backbone of the country's domestic and foreign policies, have not been codified. It may be necessary for the country's foreign policy officials to seek guidance from the statements of the late Imam and the esteemed leader so that no one dares to make such impudent and irresponsible statements.

There is also a confusion between "political relations" and the "solution of economic problems." Some naively believe that relations with America will solve all our problems, that we will be able to continue with reconstruction in a free atmosphere and display the true idyllic picture of the Islamic Republic to the world. They think that they can fool the United States and get rid of it once and for all. If such beliefs don't stem from "political intimidation" then they show naivete. If referring to history and Islamic teachings is not enough to prove this point then we only need to look at the fate of our northern neighbor and see what United States has done to it.

In a speech on 3 Sha'ban [26 January 1993] the esteemed leader showed contempt for foreign help. The principle is this: If we accept foreign help it will just make the enemy greedier. Statements calling for direct talks or advice on establishing relations are an expression of need, and the natural outcome of this will be disillusionment with the revolution and more demands for concessions from the enemy.

It is true that in our policy we are not trying to "create enemies." But we are not masking the face of the enemy, portraying it as a friend either. We are not altering our policy of disagreement.

We must find new breathing space to help mitigate political pressures. This can be done by recognizing the world situation and the disagreements among political forces, as well as by prioritizing foreign policy objectives. This task should be assigned to people who are committed to the principles of the Islamic Republic. Otherwise, if we show even the smallest weakness in dealing with the big powers, there could be destructive repercussions.

Opposition Leader Views Economy, Clerics

NC1202081593 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[First part of a three-part address by Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO, to the "noble people of Iran" on the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran on 10 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, in the name of Iran, and in the name of freedom. In the name of the new revolution of the people of Iran against the inhuman Khomeyni regime.

Dear compatriots, noble people of Iran, sympathizers and supporters of the resistance. O those who are enamored of Iran's independence and freedom, we can say of today that we laugh while we cry. [passage omitted]

The spring of freedom was short lived, because Khomeyni the impostor stole the revolution. The fish we caught has rotted. And tears of blood are shed. Iranian people lament the destruction of the great antimonarchical revolution at the hand of the filthy burglar and impostor Khomeyni. He stole the hope and trust of a deprived and tyrannized nation.

The people of Iran rolled out a red carpet for him with their blood and welcomed him with hopes. But this anti-human savage, the greatest thief of the century, who expropriated the revolution, the hopes and trust of a nation, is a thousand times worse than the shah, the Tartars, and Mongols, because he killed and burned, plundered and pillaged, and destroyed everything. The revolution fell into the hands of one who was never a revolutionary. [passage omitted]

For many years, Khomeyni and his regime insisted on continuing the war that killed and maimed millions. They admit that $1 billion of material losses were sustained and numerous towns and cities were destroyed. Thousands of villages, bridges, and fields were devastated. This was the result of Khomeyni's rule.

The policies of Khomeyni, who called himself the hope of the world's oppressed, left over 70 percent of Iran's people below the poverty line. The regime's newspapers state that 50 percent of society's wealth is in the hands of 230 individuals or families. There are innumerable reports on the situation in Iran that confirm that 1 percent of the population holds over 80 percent of the country's wealth.

Despite this, the construct and sell [reference to those who sell poorly constructed residential units] cleric 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani shamelessly claims that his regime pioneers justice and equality on the international level.

Two weeks ago, on 25 January, Hashemi-Rafsanjani claimed that his regime has many enemies because it pioneers international justice and equality. What strange

justice. The economy is the same. According to the reactionary Majles' deputies, there was a national debt of $12 billion when Hashemi- Rafsanjani came to power. Now the Majles deputies state that it has risen by another $18 billion. So the national debt has risen to $30 billion according to their own estimates. The figure is far higher. If we calculate all the national borrowing, the regime's debts would be far more than $35 billion.

The regime's newspapers admit that the level of government borrowing exceeds 1 trillion tumans. They consider it horrifying. The clerics had currency notes printed without any backing and robbed the deprived, impoverished, and oppressed people, whose leaders they profess to be. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani says 51 percent of the budget has been borrowed from the country's banks. It was at the latest Friday prayer show that Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: If you remember, we had a constant shortage of currency notes, which we had to keep printing.

This is how he admitted it himself. Before Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the so-called bestial head of the regime's Judiciary said this country endured days when, due to the war, economic embargoes, and extraordinary pressure, we saved face by printing currency notes. Yes, they did so by printing notes without backing and thus stole from the deprived, boosting inflation and prices to horrifying levels. Inflation and spiraling prices have astonished people worldwide. [passage omitted]

All the regime's claims of reconstruction are ridiculous. With their own eyes, people see oil being sold at 5-6 tumans a liter in a country located on a sea of oil. Sugar is sold at 90-100 tumans a kilo and cheese at 250 tumans a kilo. If only oil had been conveyed to the people easily this winter. In this intense cold, snow, and floods, the people have been standing from dawn to dusk to obtain oil. They are forced to stand in line so long that they sometimes buy positions to move up. [passage omitted]

The Plan and Budget Organization has issued figures indicating that the current gross national product is so low that Iran is among the most backward countries of the Third World. So, as we said in the past, Khomeyni's rule and that of the clerics have taken Iran back 50 years. Today foreign observers see Iran wallowing in a financial quagmire.

As an example, THE MIDDLE EAST magazine wrote last month that despite the deceitful efforts by regime officials to project Iran as a paradise for investors, the truth is that the country is in the throes of an acute financial crisis. They state extremely optimistic, exaggerated figures for the national income and understate their expenditure.

The basis of all transactions is the price of oil, which is being calculated at the free market price, not at the government's official rate, which they announced themselves. This is why Hashemi-Rafsanjani states that after 25 years, we have a budget without any deficit. All this is a pack of lies and fraud.

The debt is so high that the mere mention of it immediately causes a furor. As soon as Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the budget has no deficit, he exulted shamelessly, saying that for the first time in 25 years, we have produced such a budget. The head of the Economic and Finance Commission of the reactionary Majles could not keep silent and stated: We have a deficit of 400 billion tumans in this budget. Then the officials themselves admitted that they had calculated the income from oil exports at the rate of 140-150 tumans a dollar, when foreign exchange expenditure is calculated at another rate.

Again the reactionary Majles admitted to the enormous volume of debts and loans. As well as that which is clear and overt, there is also arcane borrowing, mentioned even in the regime's publications. Officials recently conceded that the budget has a deficit of $8 billion.

How will this be met? Obviously from more borrowing. In November the speaker of the reactionary Majles said we want to cooperate with the World Bank, which means the regime wants more loans from the World Bank but it will not give them so easily. The speaker of the reactionary Majles said this is the only resort that could rescue the country's economy. So, all Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks on the budget and reconstruction are fabrications. This construct and sell cleric has much experience in the industry of fabrication.

As I said, the entire Majles rose up in indignation saying: This budget that you claim is without deficit is because you calculated expenses with the dollar at the official rate of 7 tumans and income at the open rate of 100 and more tumans a dollar. Otherwise, this budget for the next fiscal year is far more than the budget of the shah's era, when his oil income was affiliated with foreigners. [passage omitted]

Address Continues

NC1202091693 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Second part of a three-part address by Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO, to the "noble people of Iran" on the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution on 10 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Some time ago, a regime newspaper affiliated with the (?hardline) faction cited Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Please listen to some remarks he made. He said: The people should be vaccinated against the waves of satellite transmissions. The government should act so that the economy is not harmed. The Basij—as a major defense structure—should be reorganized. We should provide better health and treatment facilities for the lower income groups. [passage omitted]

First, officials admit that after 14 years of their rule, the economy is far more dependent on foreigners and more backward than during the shah's time. When the cleric Khomeyni stated [passage indistinct]

The regime's foundation is theft, fraud, and deceit. It has been (?this way) since the outset. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and

his cohorts have invested in [words indistinct]. According to international publications, the Irangate scandal, secret relations and arcane arms deals with Israel, and the channeling of profits to the Nicaraguan Contras by means of the CIA have disgraced the regime.

A U.S. Air Force general named (Hikock), who was involved in this scam, said a TOW missile was transported to Iran by the CIA via Turkey and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's nephew, who posed as a dealer, was sent from Brussels to Istanbul to arrange the transaction.

All the clerics, the officials and echelons of the regime, are involved in such sedition and corruption, burglary and plunder—from Khamene'i to Hashemi-Rafsanjani right down to the lowest revolution guard, Basiji, and Hezbollahi. They all know that guards are involved in smuggling cigarettes, stealing cars, motorcycles and bicycles—these people, these guards and clerics, who profess to be religious and honest.

This means that all the cheating, corruption, and sedition is being carried out under the regime's auspices. This is why it should be toppled. [passage indistinct]

Now let us see the clerics' assets. The dazzling villas the clerics occupy are nothing less than fairytale palaces. But the shanty dwellers, whose homes are razed over their heads by midnight, live in the cities' southern parts and say their dwellings are full of scorpions, insects, and rodents. They must suffer cold in winter and the heat, insects, and rodents of summer. The women and children live constantly in fear.

The regime's publications admit that housing in Iran costs more than housing in Europe, Asia, and the United States. But the cleric Khamene'i chatters like a magpie, saying housing is an international problem. Well, which of Iran's problems is not international?

Apart from the children, 11 million are illiterate in the country. Education and training is short of at least 150,000 classrooms and 120,000 teachers. Only 7 percent of the country's youth have the chance to study at Tehran University. Addiction, corruption, [word indistinct], pessimism, and suicide aggravate social woes and proliferate. In Ilam alone, in the past six months, over 60 people, abject and despondent, resorted to suicide. [passage indistinct]

Pakistan

Government Ready To Extradite Suspect in CIA Killings

BK1202093293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—Pakistan has told the United States it is willing to extradite a 28-year-old fugitive wanted for killing two CIA employees outside Washington—if he can be found—official sources here said Friday.

Pakistan launched a manhunt Thursday for Mir Aimal Kansi, the prime suspect in the January 25 shooting outside the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters near Washington that left two CIA employees dead and two injured.

Kansi reportedly fled to Pakistan after the incident.

"If he is found in Pakistan he will be extradited to the United States," the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said, quoting official sources.

Members of Kansi's tribe said the man was seen last week in his hometown Quetta, capital of southwestern Baluchistan province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

Arriving in Quetta late last month, he behaved as a "normal man" and did not discuss the shooting incident, family sources said.

They were unable to confirm his whereabouts in the last week, but said he may have crossed into Afghanistan or Iran to seek asylum.

Referring to the possibility that Kansi's alleged involvement in the shooting might strengthen U.S. suspicions that Pakistan sponsored terrorism, the official news agency stressed that Kansi had been provided asylum by the United States.

"The fault therefore lies with the Americans and not with us," it said quoting unnamed sources.

APP said Kansi sought asylum in the United States in 1991, citing "persecution," and was issued a work permit pending a decision on his application.

After the shooting, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) put him on the list of its 10 most wanted fugitives.

APP said an FBI team was to arrive in Pakistan to help in the search for Kansi.

Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency has started its own investigations and has been directed to extend all necessary cooperation to the FBI team, APP said.

Search Continues in Quetta

BK1202121793 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 93 p 18

[By Saleem Shahid]

[Text] Quetta, Feb 11—The family sources of Aimal Kansi, allegedly involved in the murder of two officials of CIA in America, confirmed here on Thursday that he had visited Quetta in the last week of January and spent a few days with them.

These sources said further that he left Quetta four days back for Karachi, saying that he was returning to the US. Kansi went to America in February 1991 for permanantly staying there. He has three stepbrothers, namely Hamidullah Kansi, Nasibullah Kansi, and Mir Wais Kansi.

He is the son of the late Abdullah Jan Kansi a well known contractor and businessman belonging to the Kansi Pushtoon tribe of Balochistan.

The sources said Aimal Kansi did his M.A. in English Literature from the Balochistan University in 1987-88.

They said that he was [word indistinct] to settling down either in Europe or the US. However, his late father sent him to Germany probably in 1988 or 1989 but he spent only on month and returned home, they added.

Aimal Kansi belongs to a very rich family as his late father donated Rs [rupees] 10 million for the construction of a medical ward in the Civil Hospital, Quetta.

Family Comments on Whereabouts

BK1202121593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Feb 93 pp 1,4

[By Shahzada Zulfiqar]

[Excerpt] Quetta—Aimal Khan Kansi, who is wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with the killing of two CIA men in America, left Quetta four days ago for unknown destination after staying at his home for a week, the family sources disclosed to THE NATION on Thursday evening.

It may be mentioned that he is alleged for killing two employees of Central Investigation Agency [as published] of America and injuring three others outside the main gate of CIA Headquarters on January 25 in Langley, Virgina.

One of his three step-brothers, Mir Wais Kansi, while talking to this correspondent said, "we are still stunned by the news about our brother's involvement in such a criminal incident which naturally brought a bad name to the family as well as whole Kansi tribe." He said that his brother had no involvement in political as well as criminal activities in Quetta.

According to Wais Kansi, his brother came here at the end of January last, and stayed at home for a week. Before leaving four days ago he (Aimal) told us that he came here for vacations and returning to States, he said. [sentence as published]

Wais Kansi said, "we have nothing to do with his misdeeds or practices as he is responsible for it. He is answerable for this incident, if involved."

According to details, Aimal Kansi received his primary education from St. Joseph Grammar School, Quetta. He graduated from a local degree college and did his Master degree from Balochistan University in English Literature. He had been in Germany in 1987 for two months for recreation. He left for America in 1991 for permanent settlement there as he was very keen to go abroad. He is 30 and bachelor.

His father late Haji Abdullah Jan Kansi who was known as Thakadar (Contractor) died in 1989 of cancer. He was an industrialist and landlord in Quetta, Hyderabad and Karachi. He allocated before his death about Rs [Rupees] 20 million for construction of a Medical General Ward in Civil Hospital Quetta with full equipment which is near completion and named "Kansi Ward". The investigation agencies here say that Aimal Kansi may have crossed the border either to Afghanistan or Iran and gone underground there.

According to unconfirmed reports, an FBI team has arrived here for investigation. [passage omitted]

No Political Links

BK1202121393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 Feb 93 pp 1, 10

[By Anwar Ikbar]

[Text] Islamabad: Sources in the family of a Pakistani suspected of killing two CIA employees and wounding three other people in a shooting spree outside the agency headquarters said Thursday he visited Pakistan after the incident.

The sources, who requested not to be identified, told journalists that Mr Aimal Kansi visited Quetta in the last week of January.

US officials said earlier they believed Kansi might have taken a flight to Pakistan after the Jan 25 killings outside the Central Intelligance Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Kansi's family said he left Quetta four days ago, saying he was going to Karachi on his way to the United States.

They said that while staying with them, he did not say anything about the shooting outside the CIA headquarters.

Investigators in US recovered an automatic rifle in Kansi's Reston, Virginia, apartment which the FBI ballistic test showed to be the weapon that the killer fired at point blank range into the victims' cars as they waited in rush-hour traffic to enter the CIA compound.

Earlier, Pakistani officials said they had spoken to the suspect's family and they said there had been no word from him in several months.

Officials said there was still a chance that Kansi was hiding somewhere in Balochistan.

They said it was possible that he had crossed the border into neighbouring Afghanistan for refuge.

The suspect belonged to the Kansi tribe of the Pashtuns, the dominant ethnic group in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan.

The Kansi tribe also lives across the border in Afghanistan and it is an old tribal tradition to seek refuge across the border, officials said.

Kansi has a master's degree in English Literature from the Balochistan university and attended a western convent school in Quetta. He entered the United States March 3, 1991, on a visa issued in Karachi, US officials said.

Although a Pashtun, Kansi filed for asylum on Feb 3, 1992, citing the persectuion of the ethnic Balochis in Pakistan. He said he would be harassed if he returned to Pakistan.

However, government officials in Quetta said Kansi had no links with any Baloch national group or any other political party in Pakistan.

Officials said he came from a rich and influential family and had little fear of persectuion. His father Abdullah Jan Kansi was a rich businessman and before he died in 1989, he had donated US $500,000 for the construction of a charity ward in Quetta's civil hospital.

In 1988, Kansi went to Germany for studies but returned after a month.

Kansi shared a one-roon studio apartment in Reston, Virginia, with another Pakistani, Zahid Mir.

In a telephone interview with THE NEWS, Mir said he was in the protective custody of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mir told the newspaper that Kansi returned to the apartment on the day of the shooting, and then disappeared.

Meanwhile, a Karachi newspaper said Kansi worked for a courier service that delivered goods to CIA.

Navy Denies Exchange of Fire With Indian Navy

BK1202082093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan Navy has contradicted press reports about exchange of fire with Indian Navy. A press release of the Navy said that no such incident took place. However, it said some boats carrying out illegal fishing in Pakistani waters and attempting to bring illegal immigrants have recently been apprehended by the concerned agency.

Japanese Team Appreciates Assurance on Nuclear Aims

BK1202025493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] A Japanese delegation led by Donowaki, an envoy [as heard] on arms control and disarmament, has had talks with Pakistani authorities in Islamabad on nuclear non-proliferation and steps to promote peace and security in the region. The Japanese delegation was told that Pakistan's nuclear program [words indistinct] is for peaceful purposes. The delegation appreciated the assurance.